




Speech By  
**Hon. Jann Stuckey**

**MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN**

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Gold Coast Commonwealth Games**

 **Hon. JA STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (9.46 am): I rise today to address allegations raised in the media regarding negotiations between this government and the Gold Coast City Council over financial commitments to the Gold Coast's 2018 Commonwealth Games. It is disappointing that any conversation regarding the Gold Coast and the Commonwealth Games may have been misinterpreted. I reject the claim that threats were made in regard to this or any other issue.

This government's commitment to the Commonwealth Games and the Gold Coast is crystal clear. Last month this government announced the renewal of the Gold Coast 600 for another three years. In the 2013-14 state budget this government committed \$41.4 million to progress the planning and development of the Commonwealth Games village. We also allocated \$33.3 million towards the redevelopment of the Gold Coast Aquatic Centre. I make no apologies for being a tough negotiator when seeking the best return for taxpayers' dollars. The negotiations between the state government and the Gold Coast City Council have been frequent, vigorous and robust.

The state government is contributing \$2 billion towards the cost of hosting the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games. We are asking the Gold Coast City Council to put in \$100 million. It needs to pay its fair share. The Gold Coast City Council has a budget of \$1.1 billion, and what they are being asked to contribute is less than two per cent of their annual budget.

**Dr Douglas:** From ratepayers!

**Mrs STUCKEY:** In return, the council and their residents—

**Madam SPEAKER:** I will stop the clock. Member for Gaven, I warn you under the standing orders if you keep interjecting.

**Mrs STUCKEY:** The Gold Coast City Council has a budget of \$1.1 billion. What they have been asked to contribute is less than two per cent of their annual budget. In return, the council and their residents will receive a lasting legacy of world-class facilities.

My focus has been, and will continue to be, about delivering the best Games yet with a lasting, positive legacy of which we can all be proud. We make no bones about the fact that we are funding the Commonwealth Games so that it will be a resounding success. The state's ongoing investment in major events on the Gold Coast is well and truly on the record, and all we are asking is that the Gold Coast City Council contributes their fair portion of these significant costs.

This track record of delivery is proof that the allegations raised are clearly not correct. This government is delivering for the Gold Coast.