



Speech By
Hon. Jann Stuckey

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Dennis, Mr J; Byrne, Mr A; Cooly Rocks On; Surf Lifesaving

 **Hon. JA STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (2.36 pm): I wish to place on the record my condolences to the family of 17-year-old Jerry Dennis from Tugun, who suddenly lost his life last Thursday, 1 August, while at surf-lifesaving training. The loss of such a young life is immensely saddening and difficult to comprehend. On behalf of the Currumbin community may I pass on our heartfelt sympathies to Jerry's parents, Greg and Christine, and their family and friends.

More sad news is that Allan Byrne, a founder of the Byrning Spears surf brand based in Currumbin, passed away today after a tragic accident in Bali last Friday. Our condolences go out to his family and friends.

On a brighter note, it gives me great pleasure to rise and inform the House about two terrific activities that epitomise what makes the beautiful electorate of Currumbin really tick. The annual Cooly Rocks On festival saw locals, along with domestic, national and international visitors, rocking on through the streets of Coolangatta between 31 May and 10 June. Promoted as a nostalgic and rock-and-roll car festival, it incorporates so much more. This year it injected a record-breaking \$33.3 million into the local economy, which is almost \$4 million up on last year. The southern Gold Coast remains the primary location to benefit from the festival and received 77 per cent of the total expenditure with an estimated 95,000 people attending this year, providing a huge economic boost to local shops, business and accommodation houses.

Currumbin is home to a host of surf-lifesaving clubs within the Point Danger branch and is comprised of 11 surf clubs in total; eight of which lie within the boundaries of my electorate. Their recently released 2012-13 annual report necessitates praise, and it would be remiss of me not to share some of their stellar efforts with the House. Perhaps most importantly, it marks another season with no lives being lost between the flags. Given the huge volume of visitors to our shores, this is a remarkable and commendable achievement. During the season these local clubs excelled themselves with 215 rescues, 847 preventative actions, over 10,000 warnings, 30 searches and 1,200 first aid treatments.

Every year for the last eight years I have donated a rescue board to the patrol club of the year, and I wish to acknowledge that the Currumbin Vikings SLSC were successful this year. They were recognised for their overall outstanding commitment in all aspects involved in getting a patrol on the beach. Surf-lifesavers are the unsung heroes of our community, and on behalf of the people of Currumbin I extend our appreciation for their invaluable assistance and the sacrifices that they make year after year to keep our visitors and locals safe. May I also congratulate the organisers for a fantastic effort hosting the Aussies National Surf Life Saving championships at North Kirra earlier this year.