



Speech By
Hon. Jann Stuckey

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

Record of Proceedings, 17 October 2013

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Currumbin Estuary

 **Hon. JA STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (2.38 pm): As honourable members are no doubt aware, the Currumbin electorate is home to some of the most beautiful, clean beaches and waterways in Queensland, if not the world—one of these being the Currumbin Estuary, which is a hive of activity all year round, especially in the summer months with a multitude of users, local and visiting, taking advantage of the weather and location. Due to this huge interest, discussions surrounding this waterway require careful consideration and a whole-of-community approach to ensure it remains safe for all to use. Tragically, in May 2011 local resident Richard King was killed whilst surfing at Currumbin Estuary. At that time I urged the community to recognise the dangers of the waterway and to look out for one another when partaking of any activity.

The Gold Coast Waterways Authority was formed as a result of an LNP election promise, and it provides a long-awaited, go-to authority for management of our waterways. On Friday, 13 September 2013 the CEO of Gold Coast Waterways Authority, Hal Morris, and I, after considerable community consultation, announced a raft of initiatives focused on improving the safety of Currumbin Estuary for everyone. Following lengthy discussions and engagement with surfers, boaties, Currumbin Volunteer Marine Rescue, Gold Coast City Council and state government agencies, it was determined the focus over the coming months should be on education, clear signage and community collaboration. Educational briefings will be held by Maritime Safety Queensland, Queensland Water Police, and Boating and Fisheries. These will be aimed at better informing locals and visitors of the conditions, and warning them to take precautions when using the estuary.

In addition to the existing Coastalwatch camera on top of the VMR, a new fixed camera has been installed and will be operational for a three-month trial period. Footage from this camera will allow the Gold Coast Waterways Authority to assess and monitor the waterway over one of the busiest periods of the year. Signage plays a critical role in providing a clear, concise and effective message to those entering the creek. The Gold Coast City Council and the Gold Coast Waterways Authority are currently in the process of updating signage at the creek, beach and on boat ramps.

Earlier this year I launched Currumbin Hoon Watch, an initiative encouraging residents to be actively involved in reporting unsafe and unsociable behaviour in a straightforward and helpful way to the relevant authorities. Locals can download a copy from my website. I place on record my appreciation to Hal Morris, the CEO of the Gold Coast Waterways Authority, the minister and local stakeholders for their commitment to my local area and their active involvement in implementing these initiatives. I am sure that these actions combined with community support will lay the foundation for what we all hope is a safe and enjoyable summer holiday season at Currumbin Estuary. I invite all honourable members to come down and see how wonderful it is.