



Speech By
Hon. Jann Stuckey

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

Record of Proceedings, 31 October 2013

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Currumbin Electorate

 **Hon. JA STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (2.48 pm): As all honourable members would be aware, it is always an exciting time in Currumbin, but October has been especially so with several events hosted in our picturesque location. This can-do government is proud to support major and regional events, especially those that promote an active and healthy lifestyle. On Sunday, 13 October the Tour de Valley cycling time trial event was held in the Currumbin Valley on the proposed 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games track. Only in its second year, the event grew from 250 competitors in its inaugural year to an impressive 340 competitors this year. Event organiser Chris Thompson is to be commended for developing Tour de Valley and turning it into a key event on the national cycling calendar.

Our world famous beaches provide a superb backdrop for the numerous events held on our shores. Saturday, 19 October was a busy day in Coolangatta, with Wave Warriors and Coolangatta Gold attracting thousands of people. Both events showcased everything that is great about the Gold Coast and our surf-lifesaving movement, providing the perfect setting for competitors and spectators alike to showcase their skills and test their endurance. Wave Warriors, a surf-lifesaving initiative for our nippers, attracted some 900 participants from Queensland and interstate, bringing with them 4,000 spectators. It is great to see youths aged from nine to 15 out having a go in such a supportive and fun environment. I look forward to watching this event grow in years to come. Coolangatta Gold is always a highlight of the local event calendar—and this year was no exception, with close to 600 athletes competing in the long and short courses. I extend my congratulations to all involved in this iconic event and of course to the triumphant and very talented Ali Day and Liz Pluimers for winning the main races in a very competitive field. These events bring huge economic benefit to our region, creating jobs and invaluable advertising and media exposure, showcasing the southern Gold Coast to Australia and to the world.

Tomorrow also marks an important date in our journey towards the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games and another reason why visitor numbers to the Gold Coast will continue to increase. In the heart of Surfers Paradise I will join the Premier to welcome the Glasgow 2014 Queen's Baton Relay to Queensland. Carrying a message from the head of the Commonwealth, Queen Elizabeth II, the baton will have traversed 70 nations and territories covering 190,000 kilometres in 288 days before arriving in Glasgow—the host of the 2014 games. The Queen's baton will stay on the Gold Coast for 24 hours before briefly visiting Canberra and then returning to Townsville and Cairns. I am really thrilled the baton will be coming to Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary on Saturday morning so members of the public can be part of this significant occasion. Queensland's very own Queen's Baton Relay to commemorate the games will commence its journey in 2017.