



Speech By
Hon. Jann Stuckey

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

Record of Proceedings, 13 February 2014

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENTS

Currumbin Estuary; Correction of Statement

 **Hon. JA STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (2.34 pm): As the member for Currumbin for the past decade and long resident for 27 years, I am acutely aware of our community's desire to protect our natural assets which include our magnificent beaches and picturesque Currumbin estuary. I have spoken of this publicly and in the parliament on numerous occasions and am a strong advocate of thorough community consultation and engagement. Whilst we are blessed to have this beautiful waterway in our backyards that is a hive of activity with a multitude of users enjoying it, especially in the warmer months, it presents a number of challenges that require constant assessment and careful consideration to ensure the safety of all users.

In 2012 the Newman government was elected with a promise to establish the Gold Coast Waterways Authority to provide guidance and advice on waterways safety and usage. This is being delivered under the very capable leadership and direction of CEO Hal Morris and chairman of the board, Gary Baildon. Since the formation of this authority, I have convened a number of meetings and maintained regular communication with stakeholders regarding the management of the estuary which saw the creation of an ongoing Currumbin estuary safety awareness campaign focusing on education, camera coverage, clear signage and community collaboration.

The Newman government recognises the importance of Currumbin Alley as a popular surfing break, and the Premier and Minister Emerson have made it clear they will not create a wider navigational channel past the groyne or a new sand bypass system. I welcome this decision and support the council's existing dredging program inside the creek mouth for flood mitigation purposes. That is why I was instrumental in setting up a committee including local stakeholders to have a say in the location of the dredge area and where the sand was deposited. The government's decisive response to this issue demonstrates that we recognise the importance of our beaches and will take the necessary steps to ensure they are not adversely impacted and remain open for all to enjoy.

A proposal to develop a cruise ship terminal at Kirra was met with a wave of anger by thousands who attended a protest paddle-out on Sunday, 19 January. Addressing the crowd before the paddle-out, I read out a statement from the Premier, and I quote—

While we always welcome new ideas about how to grow the state, we will simply never entertain the idea of a cruise ship terminal at Kirra Beach. Our beaches are just too important—not just as a natural wonder or as a place for families and surfers—but also for the central role they play in Gold Coast tourism.

I could not have put it better myself, but I would add: our lifestyle and community pride are something we cherish in the electorate of Currumbin.

On another note, it has been brought to my attention that in the police powers bill I inadvertently gave an incorrect statement, and I wish to place on record my apologies to the House.