



Speech By  
**Hon. Jann Stuckey**

**MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN**

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Record of Proceedings, 6 March 2014

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Currumbin Electorate, Events**

 **Hon. JA STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (2.48 pm): It gives me great pleasure to share with honourable members some exciting happenings in the Currumbin electorate, an exquisitely beautiful part of the world located on the Queensland coastline adjoining the New South Wales border. As I speak, the world's best surfers are gracing our sandy shores, exhibiting their skills on the waves at the annual Quiksilver and Roxy Pro held at Snapper Rocks. This is the first location of an 11-stop world championship tour circuit. Where better to kick it off than in the backyard of our own home-grown world champions—Mick Fanning, Steph Gilmore and Joel 'Parko' Parkinson.

Boasting some of the best waves in the world, it is little wonder the southern Gold Coast beaches are home to international competitions, including the Quiksilver and Roxy Pro, as well as a number of domestic events. The significance of this cannot be underestimated. The event is broadcast via a live webcast around the globe, and is expected to draw 47,000 spectators from all over Australia and the world over the eight days of competition. The 2013 event had an economic impact of some \$7.19 million.

Surfing has long been a part of the fabric of the southern Gold Coast and our region's tourism industry. We value the economic benefit and the invaluable marketing opportunities that such an international competition brings as our stunning foreshores are beamed around the world. I understand the competition has been fierce and there have been some closely contested heats. Unfortunately, there is no surfing today, though, as a lay day has been called. Hopefully the swell picks up tomorrow and Steph can progress through the women's semifinal into the final.

'Parko' and Fanning are both set to hit the waves for round 3, and I am confident they will be as impressive as ever on their home break and progress through to the finals later in the week. I am looking forward to attending on the weekend to cheer on our champions. I place on record my appreciation to everyone involved.

Currumbin will continue to be a mecca of surf inspired activity over coming weeks with Bleach—the premier arts, music and beach culture festival on the Gold Coast—kicking off this weekend and running through until 23 March. Supported by the Tourism and Events Queensland Regional Development Program, this festival spreads right across the Gold Coast with the program encompassing a mix of contemporary live music, pop up art installations and exhibitions, outdoor film programs, street parties, theatre and ideas. Congratulations are in order for festival director, Louise Bezzina, for her creative energy and passion that sees this festival grow and develop more each year.

During May the spectacular Opera on the Beach performances of *Magic Flute* will take place right on Greenmount Beach. It is sure to be a truly magical production and one not to be missed. Honourable members, if you have any time spare in May or before then I invite you to Currumbin to enjoy some of these exciting events.

*(Time expired)*