



Speech By
Hon. Jann Stuckey

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

Record of Proceedings, 18 March 2014

MOTION: NEWMAN GOVERNMENT

 **Hon. JA STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (5.58 pm): As a proud Gold Coaster, I am pleased to be standing in the House this afternoon to support what our government is doing and delivering for the people of the Gold Coast. I support the amended motion that has been moved by the honourable member for Caloundra. Before we espouse the amazing achievements of this government in the very short time of just two years, let us take a quick look at Labor's track record. It is worth having a little peak-a-boo at it. When they were in power they had no interest in the Gold Coast. In fact, I would say that they are feigning interest now. After all, theirs was the government that left us with a legacy of debt and uncontrolled spending, and we are cleaning up the mess and applying some fiscal responsibility at the same time. There is a saying in tourism: promise good and deliver great. Under the grinning Beattie and the gushing Bligh, it was: promise the world and deliver little, except a great big, fat debt. Let us also look at how many questions have been asked of me about tourism, events, small business and the Commonwealth Games.

Mr Stevens: Who is the shadow tourism minister?

Mrs STUCKEY: I do not think there is one. There have been over 500 opportunities, but can honourable members guess how many questions I have been asked? I have been asked only a handful of questions. What about ministerial representation on the Gold Coast during the era of Labor governments? How many ministers came from the Gold Coast? For a little while, we had one from Southport. Under the LNP, there are two ministers and two assistant ministers from the Gold Coast. That is a sign of commitment to the Gold Coast.

Let us also look at some of their expenditures that we are now trying to clean up, such as Labor's \$7 billion water grid. The Tugun desalination plant in my electorate is a white elephant with more episodes than *Days of Our Lives* that is continuing to suck so many dollars out of government coffers. While we are on water, eight pieces of legislation arose from their 2006 to 2012 water reform. That is eight pieces of legislation in seven years that were designed to confuse and abuse consumer trust. Let us look at what we have done for waterways, such as the Currumbin estuary and others. Under Labor, there was no responsibility accepted and no authority given. On the other hand, the Newman government moved very swiftly to establish the Gold Coast Waterways Authority, which is now able to guide the future of our waterways.

Of course, we must not forget the soaring cost of living under Labor. The people of Currumbin indicated that that was their biggest cause for concern. There were the 11 years it took to build 4.1 kilometres of railway line from Robina to Varsity Lakes at a cost of \$324 million, but guess what? They built it 100 carparks short, so people were fined as soon as they started to use it and there were no bus connections to take them anywhere either. Of course, the Tugun bypass is Australia's most expensive seven kilometres of road, costing some \$543 million.

Let us take a quick look at tourism, which was neglected under Labor but nurtured by the LNP. It is up \$1 billion on figures for September to September last year. The Gold Coast airport just recorded its best-ever January. The Gold Coast Airport had 571,000 passenger movements, which is a 3.2 per cent increase on January 12 months prior. Of course, there are the airlines we are bringing in: Scoot, Qantas has returned, AirAsiaX, Tiger and Virgin. In our calendar year we have 18 major events on the Gold Coast supported by my department. We have 18 regional events also supported by Tourism and Events Queensland in my department. We have struck a \$15 million partnership and advertising campaign to boost visitors to Gold Coast theme parks. As far as small business goes, we are cutting the suffocating 92,000 pages of red tape that that lot over there imposed on them. And the Commonwealth Games are on time and on budget, no thanks to any of the work you ever did.