



Speech By
Hon. Jann Stuckey

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

Record of Proceedings, 11 September 2014

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Southern Gold Coast, Law and Order; September 11, 2001

 **Hon. JA STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (2.49 pm): The Rapid Action and Patrol—or RAP—group, housed on the Gold Coast, is providing significant benefits in the fight against crime and antisocial behaviour. On Friday, 5 September, Operation Mike Biota was conducted by the RAP unit. That saw the closure of a two-month operation targeting drug supply on the southern Gold Coast involving a feeder gang known as the South Side Soldiers. The operation was conducted with 100 RAP officers and two members of the Australian Federal Police drug dog detection unit, specifically targeting addresses in the suburbs of Palm Beach and Currumbin Waters. In total, 10 offenders were charged with 40 charges relating to the production of drugs, possession of drugs, possession of weapons and stolen and tainted property. Police seized in excess of 50 kilograms of cannabis and a total of \$67,000, which will be alleged to be the proceeds of drug sales.

Whilst it is disheartening to know that this behaviour was occurring in our backyard, these activities by RAP have resulted in the dismantling of the second feeder gang on the southern Gold Coast following a fragmentation of the Gold Coast Brotherhood through unrelenting police raids that saw the incarceration of many members. Illegal gangs have no place in our neighbourhoods and our officers are to be applauded for their thorough and detailed investigations resulting in these most successful outcomes. I commend all officers involved in the sound results achieved in raids on premises linked to serious crime. My regular contact with the commander of the RAP unit, Superintendent Jim Keogh, other senior officers and our local police will continue so that we can deliver positive results for our community. Currumbin is a close-knit community with some of the best sporting facilities, parks and beaches, not to mention a host of events that bring thousands of tourists to the region each year. We need to send a clear message to criminals: if they bring violence and antisocial behaviour into our streets and licensed premises, they will be caught and prosecuted.

In my role for the past decade as the local member, I have made community consultation and safety a high priority as I lobby for greater police resources and tougher penalties. Under the LNP Newman government, there has been a significant decrease in break-ins, assaults and other crimes, coupled with a significant increase in the presence of police officers around our streets. Recent police operations in my electorate are indicative of this government's strong stance on law and order. We will continue to provide the resources and legislative backing that our officers need so that they can get on with the job. Unlike those opposite, we have not buried our head in the sand. We are unapologetic about our tough stance and commitment to making Queensland the safest place to live, work and raise a family.

Let us all take a moment to reflect and remember the victims and families of the tragic events of September 11, 2001, as we celebrate what it is to live in this wonderful country in our great state.