



Speech By
Jann Stuckey

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

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ADJOURNMENT

Tallebudgera Valley, Proposed Development; Assistance Dogs Australia; Rural Fire Brigades

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (7.13 pm): Last night, a meeting was held at the Tally Valley Golf Club to discuss a major development proposal in the picturesque Tallebudgera Valley by the Australian wing of Chinese developer Ridong called the Wellness and Tourism Gardens. Last September, the development application was lodged with the council and comprises a six-star 98-room hotel, including a five-storey building, a four-storey art gallery, a 100-seat theatre, an entertainment lounge and an automotive museum. There will be 113 private luxury villas, a 16-hectare man-made inland lake, a luxurious day spa, three restaurants, two conference centres and a wedding chapel, all on 47.5 hectares on Tallebudgera Connection Road.

Approximately 85 residents and friends attended the meeting, which was a big turnout given the terrible weather conditions. The major concerns raised about the development included building on a flood plain, adversely affecting other properties in the form of flooding the creek, significant changes to the amenity of the valley and the residents' chosen lifestyle, increased traffic flow and increased risk to wildlife. Koalas are already being killed at unacceptable rates and these dangerous hotspots were mentioned.

At that meeting, Councillor McDonald advised that she had been made aware of the submission, which was lodged on 20 September, and believes that there had been some consultation and meetings with the state government prior to the submission being lodged. If that were the case and discussions have already been held with the state government about an integrated resort type of development, where the state government could override any negative decision of the council, the people in my electorate deserve to know. Councillor O'Neill indicated that there is a window of about six months for the community to get organised and put in any objections in line with the planning process. New developments, especially of this scale, must be open to thorough community consultation. I shall be writing to the relevant ministers to seek some clarification.

I also want to applaud the efforts of volunteer puppy educator Melissa Bromley from Assistance Dogs Australia. Melissa and retriever Oska are familiar faces around Currumbin and the greater Gold Coast, spreading the benefits of volunteering and fundraising for this worthy cause. Assistance dogs change the lives of those they accompany by adding companionship and safety to their lives. In September, Oska and Melissa participated in a Veterans' Health Expo at the Currumbin RSL to raise awareness of PTSD. Recently, five new super puppies were placed with volunteer puppy educator families on the Gold Coast.

The Dogtober campaign brings a number of events. On 28 October at Eddie Kornhauser park at Elanora, Golden Retriever Meetup Gold Coast is hosting an event to support ADA with treats for dogs and humans, dog related businesses and the chance to win prizes in dog competitions. I urge members to make sure to get along.

I would like to thank the volunteer rural fire brigades and their members in my electorate of Currumbin at Currumbin Valley, Tallebudgera Valley and Tomewin Mountain. I wish them a very safe bushfire season and again thank them.