



Speech By
Jann Stuckey

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Currumbin Entrance Dredging Working Group; *Dora the Explorer*

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (2.32 pm): On 3 October the Currumbin Entrance Dredging Working Group held its annual meeting to discuss the dredging program which commences around this time of the year. Currumbin estuary is an incredibly popular location and attracts thousands of people who enjoy it for many different reasons: surfing, boating, swimming and several other water activities. Problems with excessive siltation have existed for years. Some say it is worsened by the Tweed Sand Bypass, which was built almost 20 years ago. No-one wants to accept that the problem is theirs, claiming that it is not a navigable waterway. I will save that debate for another day.

Once a year a small dredge removes a specified amount of sand which is used to replenish nearby beaches. The designated grid area, as it is called, has not changed much in many years, and there are calls to alter the current footprint to get better, longer lasting results. There are also concerns about water quality in the adjoining parklands, known as the Pirate Park, due to inadequate flushing out of the estuary and heavy siltation. That is why with regard to the dredging of this estuary I asked the Minister for the Environment if she can advise what the state government's financial commitment has been each year for the past five financial years; what steps need to be taken to modify the designated dredge area; and what involvement the state government has in assessing water quality in Currumbin Creek.

I also had the pleasure of taking a tour of the *Dora the Explorer* film set at the local Palm Beach Currumbin State High School—AKA Silver Lake High—during the September school holidays. Together with school principal Chris Capra, Paramount Pictures' Ernie Malik from Chicago, and local Gold Coast film location manager Duncan Jones, we visited on the last day of filming at the school. *Dora* is being filmed at 25 locations, all in Queensland. Filming will finish in Queensland mid-November. It was surreal to walk around the facility and see the transformation.

Mind you, it is not the first time our southern Gold Coast has been chosen as a film set. I recall watching the award-winning *Muriel's Wedding* in the Coolangatta cinema. Much of it was filmed in the streets surrounding it but with name changes. More recently the comedy *Swinging Safari* with Kylie Minogue and Guy Pearce was filmed there. Again I watched it in the Coolangatta cinema complex.

For *Dora* there was a cast of around 180, with 200 extras including 40 to 70 PBC students. Forty-five trucks and trailers were set up on the school oval to accommodate all crew and staff, and 12 per cent of the film has been shot at Palm Beach Currumbin High School. I am sure everyone will be fascinated to learn that the final sequence was filmed in the PBC High hall, and the last moment of the film will be our school. I look forward to watching the film next year and seeing our local area featured. Once it is opened in the US in August, Australia will be next.