




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Container Refund Scheme; Surf Life Saving Clubs

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (2.31 pm): My home 31 years ago was Adelaide where a container deposit scheme has operated successfully for decades. New South Wales has one. One would think that Queensland could make a smooth transition, especially as the commencement date was pushed back four months. Today, 1 November, was the big day. The offices of members of parliament are often the first port of call for information about new schemes so you would think we would be kept up to date but, no, my electorate officers and I had to chase down information. The secrecy was overkill; unless, of course, the real reason was that the government was not ready—again. People were being hired at the last minute. Who knows how detailed any training was. However, I would like to thank Narelle from Envirobank for trying so hard to get information for me.

The minister tabled a document this morning boasting of the number of container refund locations. Two hundred and fifty-one sites were listed. With considerable anticipation I read the document, but to my dismay there was not one single site operating in the entire Currumbin electorate, the nearest being in Palm Beach. Today we found out we do not get any permanent sites, just pop-ups and guess where they are—at five of our surf clubs dotted along the coastline. These pop-up locations are operating only on Sundays. Two of them are from 8 am until midday; for the others no time is even mentioned. I want this scheme to work, but for goodness sake, weekends, especially mornings, along our beachfronts are the busiest time. It is chaos trying to get a park, let alone lugging a big bag of waste. The Palaszczuk Labor government and this minister are causing major confusion to residents with deceptive and misleading information. They do not have their act together and will no doubt blame the organisations trying to implement the scheme.

On another matter, I am incredibly proud of all the surf life saving clubs in my electorate. I believe I have the most in Queensland, including the oldest, the Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Surf Life Saving Club, established in 1911. It is the smallest one I want to talk about today. Bilinga Surf Life Saving Club celebrated its 80th birthday on 20 November and, like many clubs in their formative years, it was heavily supported by members from Brisbane. We were told by president John Hamrey that Bilinga has struggled with a wide range of issues, from the noted false starts in 1922 and failed attempts in 1934. In the summer of 1937 tragedy occurred on the beach at Bilinga where a man drowned, igniting public support to reform the club and in 1938 Bilinga Surf Life Saving Club was formed. I acknowledge the amazing efforts by so many over the years: the members, the life members, the organising committee, the Point Danger branch and, of course, the lifers. Thank you so much for the safe patrolling of this little stretch of sand north of Coolangatta for the past 80 years. As John Hamrey fittingly said—

The tides at Bilinga have come and gone over the past 80 years and undoubtedly our past club founders and guardians would be very proud of where Bilinga Surf Life Saving Club is today. Our club still inspires and will continue to promote that spirit of vigilance and service.