



Speech by

Jann Stuckey

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

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GOLD COAST, STORMS; SURF LIFE-SAVING

Mrs STUCKEY (Currumbin—LNP) (9.25 pm): Storms lashed the Gold Coast with winds up to 100 kilometres an hour and heavy rains during the second half of May, ravaging beaches in the Currumbin electorate. Causing over a million dollars worth of damage, not to mention sleepless nights for beachfront residents who feared they would lose their homes, storms left behind metres-high sand cliffs along several of our picturesque foreshores. Currumbin surf club car park looked like it was hit by an earthquake after being subjected to four metres of sand followed by king tides washing away the sand and ripping up the bitumen, such was the force of the natural elements.

A boat ramp that had not been sighted for 30 years appeared as dunes were taken back 20 metres and damage was done to the front and back of the club itself. Tugun surf club was counting its blessings that it had installed a rock wall only last year that protected it, but it lost most of its beach. I was at the Palm Beach surf club on Saturday, 23 May when waves and foam were whipped into a frenzy and onto the club's deck before tides also took the beach away. Remarkably, Kirra was by comparison unscathed, so great was the amount of sand already on the beach. Volunteer Marine Rescue President, Peter Saunders, warned residents of the dangers of debris in the Currumbin estuary and massive tides that could sweep even experienced swimmers out to sea.

Our city council is to be commended for its swift action to clean up the mess. Annual dredging campaigns in the mouths of Tallebudgera and Currumbin creeks may be rotated to attend to the urgent erosion issues in Palm Beach and sand will be pumped north of Palm Beach Avenue to nourish bare shores. Whilst no-one can predict the severity of Mother Nature or exactly when and where she will strike, having flexibility in the Tweed sand bypass contract to pump when and where you need it should be a matter of priority for the government.

I want to recognise the magnificent efforts of our surf-lifesaving movement as they celebrate their annual award ceremonies and a program that is enabling our youth to serve their communities. The Palm Beach surf club has a partnership with Elanora State High School to train students in surf rescue certificates and bronze medallion courses through joining the club. A majority of these young students have stayed on, with four of them topping patrol awards for this season. Tony Rapallo, head of sport at Elanora, and Sharon Kyme are to be congratulated on their commitment to train and encourage these students to volunteer as lifesavers. All too often the negative behaviour of a few of our youths makes headlines, and it was heartening, especially in times of turmoil, to see these teenagers attain impressive goals. I hope that more of our youth will get involved. In total this season, 20 bronze medallions and 14 surf rescue certificates were awarded at Palm Beach and I was thrilled to meet a number of these fine young people at the recent club awards. Further club awards will be happening throughout the Currumbin electorate as Point Danger celebrates yet another wonderful year of surf-lifesaving and saving lives.