




Speech by

Jann Stuckey

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

Hansard Tuesday, 24 May 2011

CURRUMBIN WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (11.59 am): I draw to the attention of the House the desperate plight of the iconic Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, which has operated for over 60 years, and the world-class wildlife hospital, which opened in September 2009. This unique wildlife facility, a gift to the people of Queensland by founder Alex Griffiths 35 years ago, has been continuously ignored by the Bligh Labor government. Not a cent has been given to this invaluable facility. It is a slap in the face for the hospital and for the community of Currumbin, considering the government funds the Moggill and Daisy Hill facilities. Meanwhile, the Premier and her ministers have no shame—no shame—exploiting the Currumbin sanctuary for cute and cuddly photo opportunities whenever it suits them.

Costs to run the state-of-the-art wildlife hospital have reached about \$600,000 a year and admissions are soaring. According to the Currumbin hospital's records, the number of koalas they have treated has soared fivefold in just three years. Three years ago the hospital was treating 3,000 animals a year. In the 12 months to March 2011 the hospital treated some 6,500 animals. Now this facility is at risk of closure unless assistance funding can be provided. Our community needs this service. It costs money to save these animals. We hear much about the Bligh government's environmental credentials and plenty from the member for Ashgrove, Minister Jones, about the plight of the koala population. What we need is a commitment from the state government to provide ongoing funding.

On behalf of the people of Queensland I ask the Premier and the minister to show that they really care and include some funding in this year's June budget. The CEO of the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary says that the current situation is unsustainable. The No. 1 priority is to keep the wildlife hospital open but he desperately needs funds to do so. Will the Bligh government sit on its hands and watch Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary go under? Is its commitment to our wildlife mere lip-service?

(Time expired)