




Speech by

Jann Stuckey

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

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CURRUMBIN ESTUARY

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (2.30 pm): With the annual dredging campaign in Currumbin Creek approaching, a much hyped state government report to investigate risk-mitigation options in the dangerous bar has gone largely unnoticed. Dredging is carried out by council, in its limited capacity, for flood mitigation and water quality purposes, as the state government refuses to accept any responsibility for the channel. Until a proper research and development program is undertaken, this will continue to be a temporary fix. For years our community has been crying out for the state government to step up to the plate and provide proper funding to address the worsening situation.

In May an investigation was announced into the tragic death of a surfer. However, the maritime report was quietly released in June without the usual Labor spin and fanfare. That is no surprise, though, as from reading the report it seems the government has no intention of undertaking any further investigation, stating an inability to manage sand for navigation without adversely affecting surfing. Furthermore, the report states—

... the value of boating activity is relatively small and unlikely to warrant the substantial level of investment that would probably be required.

Yet on average over 6,400 boats cross the bar each year. That is a significant amount. Labor's stubborn position that the Currumbin bar is not a navigable channel is a cop-out given this level of boating activity, which is enough to warrant a volunteer marine rescue operation and a maritime groyne. If anything, the dangers presented by the mixed use of this estuary should be more than enough justification to support further investigations.

This short-sighted Bligh government has neglected the bigger picture. The Gold Coast needs a sand management program along our foreshore, from the border through to the Broadwater. I call on the minister to notify the community of the outcome of this report and whether any or all of the recommendations to leave the situation as is are to be adopted. The Bligh Labor government's failure to address long-standing issues with the management of the Currumbin bar is shameful. Sadly, this report appears to provide nothing more than an opportunity for this lazy Labor government to wash its hands of this issue once again.