



Speech by

CHRISTINE SMITH

MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH

Hansard 3 May 2001

PALM BEACH; TIDY TOWN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Mrs SMITH (Burleigh—ALP) (7.12 p.m.): I am pleased to advise members of an exciting project involving the community of Palm Beach on the Gold Coast. Currently, Palm Beach is engaged in a campaign to secure the Tidy Town of the Year Award. The competition is run on a state basis and involves the inspection of nominated areas by a judging panel to determine the winner. The criteria include natural heritage and community involvement as well as overall aesthetics.

Palm Beach is an area on the southern Gold Coast that is often much maligned. The Tidy Town committee is determined to improve the image of this lovely part of the world. The community in Palm Beach is close knit and hard working. Many organisations and community groups have become involved with the bid and would like to see the area get the recognition that it deserves. Palm Beach has beautiful beaches, areas of spectacular natural bushland and a diverse mix of people and attractions. Many, many people holiday at Palm Beach. It is a regular tourist destination for those who want to enjoy the wonders of the Gold Coast without the high price tag. The people of Palm Beach are looking for acknowledgment of both the lovely area in which they live and the people who work so hard to keep it that way.

The bid is being coordinated by Steve Curtis of the Palm Beach Surf Life Saving Club. Steve is a very committed and dedicated member of the community. His aim is to provide the young people of Palm Beach with opportunities to be involved and enthusiastic not only about the beaches they play on but also about the community in which they live, work and study. The local councillor, Daphne McDonald, who has previously been involved in the Tidy Town competition, is working hard to improve the area and to make sure that Tidy Town gives Palm Beach the recognition that it deserves. Daphne has nominated the area for the award and is to be congratulated on her commitment to Palm Beach.

Many community organisations are represented on the committee, including the Palm Beach Chamber of Commerce, the croquet club, the Tally Valley Golf Club, Rotary, Centrelink and the Palm Beach police. The local Neighbourhood Watch committee has also become involved, represented by Lance Foley, himself a tireless worker for the Palm Beach area. Judging for the competition is due on 31 May and many little jobs are being undertaken by the committee and a group of willing volunteers to show Palm Beach off to its best advantage.

I am very proud to be part of the Tidy Town bid and pleased to be able to support the endeavours of such a hardworking and dedicated committee. Palm Beach is a very important part of the Burleigh electorate. I am absolutely committed to this area and welcome the opportunity to get more closely involved with the community in such a good cause.
