



Speech by

CHRISTINE SMITH

MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH

Hansard 17 September 2002

TALLEBUDGERA LEISURE CENTRE

Mrs SMITH (Burleigh—ALP) (12.01 a.m.): Last Thursday I had the pleasure of attending the opening of the Tallebudgera Leisure Centre, a multipurpose sports centre in my electorate. My esteemed colleague the Hon. Terry Mackenroth performed the official duties with his usual brilliance, and the ceremony was a great success. I was pleased to have the opportunity to witness the opening of a sporting facility that can offer so much to the community. Originally built as a rest and recreation camp for the Australian and American servicemen at the end of World War II, the Tallebudgera Outdoor Recreation Centre has been a Gold Coast icon for more than 55 years.

Also present at the ceremony was Alan Rafton, the principal of the Tallebudgera Beach School, and the students who will be major beneficiaries of the new facilities. I spoke with children from the Toowoomba region who were at the school for a week. They told me it was the best school they had ever attended. That is high praise indeed. Many schoolchildren go there to camp, play sport and enjoy a day out at the beach. The centre promotes health and fitness and provides training in surf survival for schoolchildren.

The leisure centre includes two multipurpose courts that can be used for a variety of sports, giving local sporting groups a much-needed venue. The redevelopment of the recreation centre is a tremendous asset for the local community. It has been an ambitious and expensive project but I truly believe that the community will reap the benefits of having a world-class sporting facility on our doorstep. Not only will the recreation centre cater for school and community sporting events; it will become a training ground for some of Australia's elite athletes.

The Gold Coast is already home to several world-class athletes, and upgrading and providing more facilities can only improve the coast's desirability. The centre has been built to complement the existing sporting facilities in the Burleigh-Tallebudgera area, as well as linking it with the Gold Coast City Council's sporting facilities plan. This project will boost the Burleigh economy and is a major boost to the sporting facilities on the Gold Coast. At a cost of \$5 million, the centre represents a significant part of the \$18 million this government has committed to redeveloping the site. The centre also includes an excellent kiosk and provides offices for Sport and Recreation Queensland.

This project is typical of the way this government is working to improve local facilities and to increase the opportunities of Queenslanders to be involved in the community. I commend everyone who has been involved in its development and construction and look forward to the joy this will bring to the faces of so many kids.

Motion agreed to.
