



Speech by

Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

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COOMERA ELECTORATE

Mr CRANDON (Coomera—LNP) (9.52 pm): I rise to commend the people of the Coomera electorate for their efforts in helping to make our area a better place to live. One case in point is the commitment of Barry Gordon and the Variety Club organisation, who are working with the Eagleby South State School. Their goal is to raise funds for a bus for the school. Funding for the bus will assist in transporting students to activities. In that area many parents do not have transport and are unable to assist in the transport of children to various venues. Principal Andrew Barnes and Barry Gordon are working together to get the fundraising moving. They are both determined to get this project up and running very soon. The good news is that, once in place, the bus will be available for other local schools as well as community groups to use. We wish them well. I will give them all the support that I am able, to help them achieve the goal of a bus for the Eagleby South State School.

At the other end of the Coomera electorate in Helensvale, a park located at the corner of Cootharaba and Ridgevale drives is a no-name park. At the instigation of a local group headed by Sonia Walsh, we are planning to have the park named. Perhaps this does not sound like a big deal, but wait, there is more. Sonia is the area coordinator of the Helensvale Neighbourhood Watch and is also involved in the residents' progress association. Following her approach to me, I contacted parliamentary Indigenous liaison officer Brett Nutley, who has suggested a name for the park adjacent to the Coombabah Lake at Helensvale. Following consultation with Aunty Carol Currie, Brett suggested the name Ballun Ballun, which loosely means 'creek' or 'water'. Following on from a comment from a local group and with the support of the parliamentary Indigenous liaison officer, we are well on our way to naming this lovely little park. We still have some work to do, but with Gold Coast City Councillor John Wayne's support, we are confident of a positive outcome.

In the first seven months of my role in the new state seat of Coomera, I have attended many Neighbourhood Watch meetings in the area. I can report that Neighbourhood Watch is alive and well, and many are doing a great job. There is a mix of well-organised and well-attended groups and Neighbourhood Watch groups that are struggling for attendance. I have seen very new Neighbourhood Watch groups that are looking for ideas and guidance. With that in mind, we need to rally the Neighbourhood Watch groups in the northern region and cross-pollinate ideas between them. It is generally agreed that we have similar issues, many of which appear specific to the northern Gold Coast region. Neighbourhood Watch groups from Gaven and Helensvale in the south to Pimpama and Ormeau in the north will be invited to a summit, with a view to networking. We will include guest speakers from areas such as the fraud squad and other successful Neighbourhood Watch groups, as well as others from the surrounding area.