



Speech by


**Michael Hart**

**MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH**

Hansard Thursday, 14 February 2013

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## **BREAKA BURLEIGH PRO**

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (6.34 pm): After the terrible tragedies of two weeks ago and the wild weather that we had on the Gold Coast over that period, it was a pleasure to see Burleigh come to life last week with the 2013 Breaka Burleigh Pro, and I have spoken about that a few times in the House this week. Burleigh really came to life. We had wonderful weather and a wonderful set-up. We had about 60,000 people over the week of the Breaka Burleigh Pro. It was a wonderful lead-up event to the first round of the world surfing tour, which will begin at Coolangatta at the end of this month and early next month with the start of the 2013 ASP World Tour, the Quicksilver and Roxy Pro. They have already started to set-up down the southern end of the Gold Coast and that will be a fantastic event. A few weeks ago we saw some quite dramatic waves. We actually had waves breaking through some of the restaurants at the beach at Burleigh, so to settle back to a four- or five-foot swell was great for that surfing event.

As I said, there were not only 60,000 visitors but also numerous cameras projecting this image out to the world. There were about 300,000 webviews of that every day of the tournament, which was really fantastic. I want to thank the organisers and Scott Gillies from Surfing Queensland for inviting the Minister for Tourism and myself to that event on the Saturday and for broadcasting the Australia Day 2 celebrations. They showed that video on the big screen and broadcast it on their web broadcast and put signs around the place promoting the Red Cross appeal. At the same time they donated a surf board signed by some of the world's leading surfers to sell at an event to raise money for the floods in the coming weeks. I want to congratulate Sally Fitzgibbons, the winner of the inaugural ASP 6-Star Women's Breaka Burleigh Pro. She defeated No. 5, Courtney Conlogue from the US. Owen Wright, another Australian, put up a masterful display of backhanded surfing to defeat fellow Australian Adam Melling from Lennox Head, New South Wales, in the men's final. As I said, it was a great day. We had great weather. It was really nice to see Burleigh come alive during that time.