




Speech By
Hon. Jarrod Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 27 November 2014

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Kawana Electorate

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (2.47 pm): I honour and thank Queensland's volunteer lifesavers for their service to our communities. Last season alone our lifesavers performed over 2,880 rescues and volunteered more than 335,000 patrol hours to save lives on our beaches across the state. As patron of Surf Life Saving Queensland Sunshine Coast and Kawana Waters Surf Life Saving Club, I will proudly join with fellow local business men and women tomorrow to raise \$50,000 for Kawana Surf Club and Summer Surf Girl entrant Megan Blin.

Kawana Waters Surf Life Saving Club patrols one of the longest stretches of open beaches on the Sunshine Coast. Tomorrow afternoon, for half an hour, I will phone colleagues, friends and family from the top of a beach patrol tower located inside Kawana Shopping World to ask them to help me personally raise a minimum of \$1,000. I have said that if we raise \$1,000 the member for Noosa will join me up the tower in his Noosa speedos. I thank the member for Noosa for that!

Now in its 14th year, this Up the Tower event has raised half a million dollars towards the purchase of new rescue equipment, maintenance of equipment and facilities, and member training. I encourage all members to participate in surf-lifesaving fundraising events over this period to help this invaluable workforce continue their work.

Tomorrow I will also have the pleasure of celebrating with another great sporting organisation, the Australian Outrigger Canoe Racing Association, South Queensland Branch, which has successfully received a \$100,000 Get Playing grant. This incredible purse will fund a range of improvements to Lake Kawana facilities including the upgrade of an existing finishing tower which will see external cladding and improvements to race visibility.

I also update the House on the fact that work will be completed by next week on the \$6 million resurfacing of Kawana Way, a project which I fought hard to secure for the region in response to concerned residents. Now 16,000 road users will enjoy a safer, smoother trip, which is good news ahead of the Christmas rush and the influx of tourists. Members may remember that in 2009 I led a protest march with 2,000 locals against the Labor government's lack of financial commitment to fund a much needed tertiary hospital on the Sunshine Coast. I am proud that once elected to government the Sunshine Coast Public University Hospital construction progressed according to schedule and within budget and will deliver free, world-class health care to the people of the Sunshine Coast from late 2016. I am pleased to report that milestones have been achieved on the construction site including the structural completion of the facilities management centre, and the list goes on.

Recently under the Great Results Guarantee five schools in the Kawana electorate shared in more than \$1.3 million in funding and will share in more than \$2.1 million funding in 2015. I thank all of the Kawana electorate community groups for the fantastic and hard work that they do, and I always support those groups. The money received from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund will go in some way to helping our community continue to be the great Kawana community that it is. We will continue to work hard to support them in the work they do for the people of the Kawana electorate.