



Speech By  
**Michael Hart**


**MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 February 2014

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENTS**

**David Fleay Wildlife Park**

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (3.10 pm): Today I rise to briefly talk about consultation, and I am very glad to see that there are a few members here from the Labor Party because they might actually learn a few things about consultation in the process. I rise to speak about the David Fleay Wildlife Park in my electorate. It was established in 1951 by David Fleay and it has gone on to become an environmental education facility that encourages community awareness, appreciation and an understanding of Queensland's protected areas and native wildlife and inspires people to share in their conservation. Mr Fleay established this park in the Tallebudgera estuary and during those years he worked there himself, he opened it up to the public and he educated people in conservation, animal care and education until later in life when, between 1982 and 1985, for a nominal sum he passed the park over to the state government. The park was run successfully by the state government for a number of years—until along came the Labor Party. The Labor Party unfortunately let the park run down to such a state that visitor numbers fell from about 50,000 visitors a year in its heyday to around 17,000 visitors. It was very sad to see the park in that sort of condition.

I have taken a great interest in the park for a number of years now. In 2006 I actually fought for the boardwalk which goes around the park to be reopened after it had been closed for about five or six years. I was reasonably successful in putting forward that argument and it forced the then sitting Labor member to push forward with repairing that boardwalk and getting it open again. Typical of the Labor Party though, unfortunately it spent \$1.4 million gold plating a boardwalk around Fleays—a boardwalk that actually goes nowhere except just around Fleays. When I was elected in 2012 we moved quickly to reopen the boardwalk all the way through to Burleigh for the sum of \$35,000. I thank the Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing for opening up to consultation a master plan for Fleays. It has been open for consultation for the last eight weeks. We have had quite a bit of feedback and actually ran a consultation forum on 1 February at the Tallebudgera recreation centre which 70 or 80 people attended to give their ideas as to what we can do with the park. I intend to be a major advocate for the master plan for Burleigh for the Fleay Wildlife Park and I look forward to giving my feedback to the government.

*(Time expired)*