



Speech By  
**Aaron Harper**


**MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 March 2016

## ADJOURNMENT

### Upper Ross Community Voice

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (8.18 pm): I rise tonight to inform the House of a fantastic group of individuals who are leading the way in my electorate of Thuringowa. The Upper Ross area, spanning the three suburbs of Condon, Rasmussen and Kelso, has some 24,000 residents and over the last few years it has received little real representation. It has experienced high youth unemployment and particular problems in the area of youth crime. Having worked in the area as a paramedic and having lived there over the last 15 years—and in particular since I was a candidate—I wanted to make a positive change to address those local issues. After my success in the 2015 state election and with much collaboration with key stakeholders, including our schools, the fantastic staff at the newly opened community centre and local police, who play an integral role in the aforementioned group, I went about the task of inviting local residents to attend an inaugural meeting on 10 February 2016. I must acknowledge Joanne Keune, who was an abundance of energy and assistance in getting the information flyers made up and assisting with their delivery in the local area.

I was inspired to do this after seeing and being a part of the Northern Beaches Police Community Consultation Group, also in the electorate of Thuringowa, which has worked very closely with members of their community. I thought this could be replicated in the Upper Ross to address local issues. I commend Mr Paul Jacob from that group on his outstanding support and assistance.

I am pleased to report the success of the inaugural Upper Ross Community Voice, as they have now named it, with over 80 locals in attendance on that first night. These groups provide a local platform to address local and state issues, to be raised through an agenda driven process, resulting in feedback to those community groups via local or state government representatives and agencies. As an example, we achieved a new school crossing on Veales Road, Jensen, on the Northern Beaches. After the first couple of meetings in Upper Ross, the issue of Riverway Drive was raised. That has just been funded by the State Infrastructure Plan to the tune of \$30 million. I know that they will be happy. It is an issue that has been around for a while.

I acknowledge the following community champions who have raised their hands to run the Upper Ross group: Ms Claudine Moncur, a local school principal, president; Mr Frank Hall, a local resident and business operator, vice-president; Senior Constable Les Groves from the local police beat, secretary; and Mr Soa Tini, local resident and now treasurer. I look forward to working with this particular group and achieving real outcomes with Upper Ross Community Voice.