




Speech By
Michael Hart

MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH

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ADJOURNMENT

David Fleay Wildlife Park

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (10.18 pm): I want to speak tonight about something that is very close to my heart, which is David Fleay Wildlife Park in the wonderful electorate of Burleigh. Those members who were in the House during the last term—and I see that everyone in the House on this side was here for the last term and one member opposite was here for a little part of the last term—would have heard me speak numerous times about the David Fleay Wildlife Park. During those last three years I worked very closely with the then minister for national parks, the member for Buderim, to instigate a couple of very important projects that we have managed to get up and have constructed over that period.

For the benefit of the House, I would like to table a letter that I wrote to the then minister on 30 September 2013 in which I refer to a pontoon at David Fleay Wildlife Park and also a *Gold Coast Bulletin* article of 10 January 2014, which talks about the master planning for the David Fleay Wildlife Park and the amphitheatre that has since been built there along with the pontoon.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 30 September 2013, from the member for Burleigh, Mr Michael Hart MP, to the then minister for national parks, recreation, sport and racing, Hon. Steve Dickson, regarding a proposal for a boat ramp at Fleays Wildlife Park [160].

Tabled paper: Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin* online, dated 10 January 2014, titled 'The Gold Coast's David Fleay Wildlife Park set to get a multi-million dollar upgrade' [161].

Both the pontoon and the amphitheatre were completed late last year. Unfortunately, they were only opened on 2 February this year. Again, unfortunately, I was not invited to the opening of those structures, which really disappoints me considering the amount of time and effort that I put into having those two structures put in place.

I actually went down to the centre and cut a ribbon myself, because last year both of those structures were completed and it would have been really good to have had them open for the public over Christmas. Instead, ministers were not available to open the structures until 2 February. I wrote to the minister and asked, 'What is happening? I have been down and I have cut a ribbon myself.' He said, 'We are going to do that in the next couple of weeks and the invitation is in the mail.' It is a bit like that fictitious cheque that is in the mail. It never arrived. Unfortunately, I missed out on that opportunity.

I received an invitation from the Gold Coast Waterways Authority to attend the opening of the pontoon because it put a lot of money into the pontoon. Unfortunately, the opening did not take place there; it took place at David Fleay Wildlife Park. The Treasurer was there. I am not sure what the Treasurer had to do with it. Maybe Treasury put in a little bit of money, but I do not think so. The Minister for National Parks also came to the opening and they both took credit for something that they had absolutely nothing to do with.

I am very happy that the pontoon is open. I am very happy that the amphitheatre is open. They are both great facilities for the people of Burleigh and something to look forward to visiting over the coming years.