



Speech By  
**Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe**


**MEMBER FOR SANDGATE**

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Official Mascot**

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games) (2.31 pm): Just over two weeks ago, on 4 April, Borobi, the blue surfing koala, was introduced to the world as the official mascot of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games. What an entrance it was! Borobi was spectacularly winched down by rescue helicopter onto the beach at Burleigh Heads, James Bond style, in front of a live TV audience. I was thrilled to join thousands of people to greet him on the beach that day at a community event to celebrate the important two-years-to-go milestone of the countdown to the games.

Once again I would like to say jingerri, or hello, to Borobi and acknowledge the great marsupial himself, who is joining us here in the Speaker's gallery. A big shout and a big thumbs up to Borobi, as he enjoys doing. As we have all learnt by now, 'borobib' means koala in the local Yugambeh language of the Gold Coast and his name highlights a strong commitment to celebrating our rich Indigenous and natural heritage throughout the games. It is not just a high priority for the Palaszczuk government, but one shared by the Commonwealth Games Federation and all of our games partners. As members would have noticed by now, Borobi is an energetic and fun-loving koala who embodies the values of the games as well as the Gold Coast, Queensland and the Australian way of life. He is approachable, determined, passionate and active.

**Ms Jones:** It sounds like me!

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** He is already proving to be a hit and a bit of a media tart. The Minister for Education might want to make other admissions now! He has been touring the country and giving interviews and developing a huge social media following with his very popular tweets. That is a very effective way to communicate when you do not otherwise speak. We hope Borobi's personality will inspire people from all over the world to come and join us here on the Gold Coast for the games to reflect the event's core message to the world, which is 'share the dream'. Welcome, Borobi!