




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Pollie Bait

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.52 pm): I rise to talk about a charity fundraising opportunity that is happening in Kawana at the moment called Pollie Bait. Pollie Bait is the opportunity for Sunshine Coast residents to see me get eaten by a shark. For 20 years I have had a phobia and real fear—some say an irrational fear—of sharks. I have travelled to the Great Barrier Reef with my family and not been able to get in the water so have watched from above. I own a boat and enjoy fishing but cannot get in salt water. I cannot teach my children how to boogie board. As the father of young children it is very difficult to go down to the beach—particularly a few weeks ago when we were at Currimundi Beach—and see my children trying to boogie board and not be able to get in and help them. My irrational fear of sharks prevents me from getting in the water so I send my wife, Sally, into the water to assist the kids to boogie board. Some ask, 'How can you have such a fear of sharks but allow your children and wife to go in the water?' Well, they do not have the fear of sharks. My wife can swim very well and if the children get into danger my wife is there to help them.

Stroud Homes came to me with a fundraising opportunity. They invited me down to the beach for a surf, but I said I could not. Dan Chapman said, 'If we kick off a fundraising campaign for Pollie Bait—Stroud Homes will give \$5,000—will you swim with the sharks at Sea Life Sunshine Coast?' Of course I said yes to that opportunity so, after 20 years, I will be swimming with the sharks on 22 June.

We are doing it to raise \$25,000 for some great local charities. The Sippy Creek animal refuge is a great charity on the Sunshine Coast. They look after dogs, cats and all animals that need to be rehomed. I myself have two great dane crosses that we have rescued—one from the RSPCA and another from an animal shelter at Caboolture. I am really looking forward to raising money for Sippy Creek animal refuge. 4 Paws Animal Rescue puts dogs and cats out for fostering. It also does a great job with volunteers right across the Sunshine Coast to make sure we 'adopt, don't shop'. I say to all people in Queensland that they should not buy pets from pet stores but should adopt pets that have been mistreated or abandoned. The third charity is Steps Group, a group on the Sunshine Coast that does amazing work for people with disabilities—getting them employment opportunities, giving them opportunities they would not otherwise have and helping them cope with life.

Those three charities will benefit from me swimming with the sharks on 22 June. I encourage all Sunshine Coast residents to go to the Pollie Bait website, Facebook page or gofundme page and donate to these amazing, very worthwhile charities. If you like me, donate. If you do not like me, donate even more because I might just get eaten by a shark.