




Speech By
Laura Gerber

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

Record of Proceedings, 14 October 2021

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Gately, Mr LF

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (9.56 am): As the fifth member for Currumbin since its creation in 1986 I am honoured to pay tribute to the first member for Currumbin, the late Leo Francis Gately. I join with this parliament in extending my condolences to his daughter Michelle who is in the gallery here today and the whole Gately family. The inaugural member for Currumbin Leo Gately's seat was formed in the 1986 redistribution and included the southern portion of the former electorate of South Coast and it centred around the Currumbin and Tallebudgera valleys, the boundaries of which are largely unchanged to this day, with only the suburb of Palm Beach being removed in subsequent redistributions.

I did not know Mr Gately personally, but what I do know is that he was someone who overcame great odds, suffering spinal and other injuries in a head-on collision in Newcastle in July in 1963 which forced his subsequent retirement from the police force. As has been noted, Mr Gately was a man of many careers, including serving as an alderman in the Newcastle City Council from 1971 to 1973. He was also a man of great conviction, proud to champion the little guy and a fierce advocate for his community. His maiden speech highlighted several issues that are still pertinent to locals in the Currumbin electorate today. He believed—

Any redevelopment should be of a balanced type, taking into account the need to create employment opportunities, whilst still ensuring environmental aspects and that buildings of an aesthetically acceptable appearance and standard are constructed.

He also said—

Tourism is a keystone for development on the Gold Coast and is vital to the Currumbin electorate.

He also noted—

Road traffic congestion is ever present on the Gold Coast and will continue to create problems until an overall study is completed, covering vehicles, buses, trains and/or a monorail.

As the Leader of the Opposition and member for Broadwater has pointed out, Mr Gately even highlighted the need to extend the railway from Robina to the border and then on to Murwillumbah. In addition to being a man that overcame great odds and a man that went into bat for his community, he was also clearly a man of great foresight because these issues still ring true for the Currumbin electorate today. While he was ultimately defeated at the following election in December 1989, Mr Gately's contribution to this House will not be forgotten. I join others in this House in offering my deepest sympathies to the Gately family at this difficult time. Vale, Leo Francis Gately.