




Speech By
Brittany Lauga

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Surf Lakes; Comments by Member for Keppel, Withdrawal and Apology

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (2.10 pm): Set in a picturesque valley between Nurim at Mount Archer, Baga National Park and Gawula—almost exactly between Yeppoon and Rockhampton—is Surf Lakes, the most amazing concentric wave pool people will have ever seen. Surf Lakes is truly mind-blowing.

Last week I had the absolute privilege of charging the beach wave and Occy's peak on my bodyboard at Surf Lakes. My heart was racing so hard, but I really wanted to push the limits. The first wave pumped out and it was time to go. Here it comes. Oh my gosh. I am thinking, paddle, paddle, paddle; kick, kick, kick. I look over my shoulder and this massive wave was coming towards me. I thought, 'Oh my God, I am going to die.' Occy's peak, which has a massive 2.4-metre face, was coming towards me. There was so much power and energy. The wave punted me into the air. It felt like just as high as Mount Archer next door. I thought I was going to die. Then phew, down the pocket I went and rode the ramp down all the way into shore. It was so cool.

The sun was shining, my heart was racing and, oh my God, I want to do it all over again. Sure I was ragdolled a few times, but I was stoked. After three hours in the water catching waves, the sun started to set and a cold beer at the Capricorn Enterprise networking night was just perfect. It was amazing to meet 1999 world surfing champion Mark Occhilupo and see 2005, 2007 and 2013 world bodyboarding champion Ben Player at Surf Lakes. Both these guys are absolute legends. Everyone was so keen to see them get barrelled on the waves.

Founder and CEO Aaron Trevis formed the idea for a concentric wave pool after tossing rocks into a lake with his children over a decade ago. It was back in 2017 that Aaron first met with me to discuss his project, and before long the lake and giant plunger were designed and constructed in my electorate.

Surf Lakes is unique because it sends large concentric waves over separate reef breaks in a controlled lake environment, with up to 2,000 rides per hour. Each wave varies in size, shape and length, allowing surfers of all abilities to surf at once. Like many in my electorate of Keppel, I am so incredibly pumped to see Surf Lakes transform from a pilot site into potentially the first operational surf lake in the world, with council recently approving the development. Congratulations to Aaron and the Surf Lakes team, many of whom I enjoyed meeting in the line-up last week. It is going to be seriously off the hook. Everyone in Keppel is absolutely frothing to see this amazing place open to the public.

While I am on my feet, I want to address a contribution I made on 30 November 2021 during MPIs. I made statements that the current federal coalition government was planning to force every age pensioner in Australia onto the cashless debit card. I wish to withdraw this statement and apologise if, in making the statement, I unintentionally mislead the House. I say that I continue to oppose the cashless debit card system proposed by the federal LNP government and any expansion thereof.