



Speech By  
**Laura Gerber**


**MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Currumbin Wildlife Hospital

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (7.12 pm): The Currumbin Wildlife Hospital is an iconic part of the southern Gold Coast, contributing enormously to our community. It is one of the busiest wildlife hospitals in the world. With a mission to treat, rehabilitate and release Australian wildlife, it plays an integral part in conservation and saving animals in our region. There is huge demand on them to treat injured and sick animals as well as prevent disease in order to protect our wildlife for future generations to come.

The importance of Currumbin Wildlife Hospital cannot be overstated. In the last 20 years over 140,000 wildlife patients have been helped as a direct result of the Currumbin Wildlife Hospital, their volunteers and their carers. I recently brought the Leader of the Opposition and our shadow minister for the environment to the hospital to see firsthand the amazing work they are doing and to discuss what the future might hold for Currumbin Wildlife Hospital. We talked about their koala chlamydia vaccination research program. We talked about the hospital's 'back from the brink of extinction' breeding program and their world-leading proposal for the Currumbin Wildlife Hospital research and training precinct.

This is an exciting proposal that would elevate Currumbin Wildlife Hospital's ability to care for our wildlife and their ability to be a centre of excellence for research. It would be absolutely world leading. Not only will this benefit local animals, but the training and education aspect of this expansion would provide further expertise to the hospital and attract great minds from all over the world. However, a funding commitment is necessary to see it happen.

Today the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary presented their proposal to the Gold Coast city council, which supported it in principle. Now it is time for the state government to come to the table. It is time for the state government to get serious about protecting our threatened species. The Palaszczuk Labor government talks a big game when it comes to conservation, but we all know that it is outcomes that matter. Conservation is not about saying the right things; it is about achieving genuine outcomes. Our unique biodiversity needs to be valued and safeguarded for future generations to come, and the Currumbin Wildlife Hospital research and training precinct will achieve this.

The expansion will also provide significant economic benefits for our region. The construction phase is expected to create a number of jobs and over a thousand students are expected to pass through its training facility on an annual basis. This training facility will allow Currumbin Wildlife Hospital to continue its critical research programs and deliver vital training programs. The benefits of this project are enormous. It is time for the Palaszczuk Labor government to put their money where their mouth is, come to the table and commit to helping Currumbin Wildlife Hospital build their hospital research and training precinct. Help the Currumbin Wildlife Hospital build the hospital for the future for our wildlife and conservation.