




Speech By
Laura Gerber

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

Record of Proceedings, 24 August 2023

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Walk 4 a Cure for Brain Cancer; Bienvenue Drive, Intersection Upgrade

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (2.37 pm): This month I held my annual Walk 4 a Cure for Brain Cancer event. The community and I walked from Kirra to Rainbow Bay Surf Life Saving Club to raise much needed awareness and funds for research into causes and treatments and, ultimately, to find a cure for brain cancer. Over 60 locals joined us this year. I am delighted to report that we raised over \$12,000, going directly to the Brain Cancer Foundation to support critical research into treatments and a cure. Our walk was also a chance for those who are fighting brain cancer or dealing with the tragic loss of a loved one to share their story in the hope that, by bravely talking about their personal journeys, governments will prioritise more funding for research so that we can save more lives from this awful disease.

Rachael is just 31. She shared that at 28 years of age, just after her child was born, she was diagnosed with brain cancer. Rachael bravely talked about her journey. She desperately just wants to see her son grow up but, tragically, the statistics are against her. Eighty per cent of patients diagnosed with brain cancer will die within five years. Terry and Beau tragically lost their son, Ryley, this year to brain cancer. Ryley was just seven years old. Brain cancer took Ryley in the most horrific way. He lost the ability to walk, talk, eat and finally breathe. We know that brain cancer kills more children in Australia than any other disease.

Lou was walking for the love of his life, Tania, whom he lost three years ago. Neill was walking for his childhood sweetheart, Roxanne. After 48 years of marriage, Neill still struggles every day without her. The pain of losing someone with brain cancer never goes away. I know this personally. Last year I lost my beloved Uncle Peter to brain cancer. Uncle Pete was a mentor to me. Along with my parents and my Aunty Sue, they have been there my whole life, and my family will never get over his loss.

I say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us on this walk and to everyone who made it possible—from the generous community members who donated to the volunteers who manned my barbecue and helped organise the day, particularly the Rainbow Bay Surf Life Saving Club that allowed us the use of their barbecue. With your support, together we can help and fight for a cure for brain cancer.

I want to turn to a different subject matter now. At the 2020 election Labor promised to upgrade the intersection of Bienvenue Drive and Currumbin Creek Road. Labor stood at that intersection and waved a bunch of signs saying they would fix this intersection. They promised it would begin in 2022 and it was due to be completed by now. These are photos of the signs at the intersection. I table those.

Tabled paper. Bundle of extracts from a social media account regarding funding for an upgrade of an intersection in Currumbin [1195](#).

Guess what? That upgrade has not happened. Why? Because Labor failed to promise to start it. The federal government is now threatening to pull the funding for that upgrade and we may never get it. This Labor government has been dishonest with our community in their commitment and our community is not going to see this upgrade happen as a result of this Labor's government broken promise.

(Time expired)