




Speech By
Laura Gerber

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

Record of Proceedings, 16 November 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Currumbin Eco-Parkland

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (6.25 pm): I want to inform this House of an action of the Palaszczuk Labor government that is having some cruel impacts on my community. The state government has quite cruelly demanded that the Valley Equestrian Centre remove about 30 pregnant cattle and horses as well as rescue horses from the state owned Currumbin Eco-Parkland by the deadline of 20 December this year. The deadline that the state government has imposed on Valley Equestrian Centre poses significant health risks to the pregnant mothers and their calves, and the short time frame also risks the welfare of the rescue horses. All the community is asking for is for the state government to take into account the welfare of these animals and show some compassion—show some understanding—and extend the time frame for them to be safely removed. The Valley Equestrian Centre needs until about February next year to find a suitable home for these animals and to allow the pregnant cattle the time they need so they can be safely transported.

Why will the Palaszczuk Labor government not give my community the time it needs to safely move the animals off the Currumbin Eco-Parkland? Let us face it: the state government has done nothing with this land for almost three years now, so why is it forcing these animals off under a deadline that is going to cause them harm? It stinks of politics. Maybe it is forcing the animals off because it has an announcement that it wants to make. That is something that we have come to expect of this Labor government, because it constantly puts announcements and politics before people. We know that we are waiting on the master plan for this site. Is that why it is prepared to compromise the welfare of these animals—because it wants to announce the Currumbin Eco-Parkland master plan? Recently a community member provided me with a draft staging plan of Currumbin Eco-Parkland. It was obtained from a site officer on the parkland. It is dated 21 November 2022 and it shows a different plan.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Member, are you going to table that document?

Mrs GERBER: I will table it when I am finished reading from it, if that is okay, Madam Deputy Speaker. This is a different plan to what is online. What is online is dated September 2022. This draft staging plan does not show any mountain bike skills tracks and it does not show any group camping facilities for schools or community groups, but what is most upsetting for our community is that it does not show any areas at all for the Currumbin Valley horse community to use the Currumbin Eco-Parkland. I am glad that it does still show the koala rehabilitation vet unit for the Currumbin Wildlife Hospital—something our community has been campaigning on—but this state Labor government needs to come clean on its plans for Currumbin Eco-Parkland. Is it going to listen to the community and deliver what the community wants on the eco-parkland or, as usual, is it going to railroad our community and not listen and deliver something that the community has not even been asking for? I table that document.

Tabled paper: Document titled, 'Draft Staging Plan (Stage 1—Option B)' [1913](#).