



Speech By
Hon. Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

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PRIVATE MEMBER STATEMENT

Coolum Surf Club; Surf Lifesaving

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (2.31 pm): I rise today to acknowledge the recent completion of the multimillion dollar renovations at the Coolum Surf Club and to mark the opening of the upcoming surf season. Planning for this development began back in 2019, with construction commencing in February this year. I was proud to attend the grand unveiling just last month. This self-funded project, five years in the making, has delivered a significant upgrade to one of the Sunshine Coast's most iconic and award-winning venues. The improvements include a new facade and entryway, an expanded north-eastern balcony, a much needed additional lift for greater accessibility and upgraded storage facilities for lifesaving equipment.

Inside, members and visitors are now enjoying refreshed reception, sports bar, gaming room and function spaces which will help the club continue to grow its membership and community presence. Importantly, the expansion has also provided an additional 60 square metres for the co-located Coolum Beach Surf Life Saving Club, ensuring volunteer surf lifesavers have the space they need to store essential equipment and continue their vital work keeping beachgoers safe. I would like to place on record my thanks and congratulations to the team at the Coolum Surf Club, particularly their general manager, Adam Mann, who was here last night. At full capacity the club employs around 110 locals, and during the construction phase he ensured almost all staff remained employed. This commitment kept people in work and preserved continuity of service for members and visitors.

The Coolum Surf Club has been a cornerstone of our community since 1919. Today it has around 240 active volunteer lifesavers, more than 200 nippers and over 18,300 members. These renovations will allow the club to increase its staff base by a further 20 positions and continue to provide outstanding service to the region.

As summer approaches, Queenslanders will again flock to our iconic beaches, especially the best beach in our state, Coolum Beach. It is timely that we recognise the extraordinary men and women of Surf Life Saving Queensland. Surf lifesaving is one of the largest volunteer movements not only in Queensland but Australia-wide. These dedicated individuals patrol our coastlines, rescue those in distress, administer first aid and provide vital community education about water safety. Our surf lifesavers confront dangerous conditions, unpredictable seas and an increasing number of beachgoers every year, yet they turn up every season. They do this not for reward or recognition but out of service to their community. Their red-and-yellow uniforms are a symbol of safety and reassurance for Queenslanders and visitors alike. I commend the Coolum Surf Club, its staff, volunteers and members on this outstanding redevelopment and wish them and all surf lifesavers a safe and successful season ahead.