

Expanding Adult Time, Adult Crime and Taking a Strong Stance on Drugs and Anti-Social Behaviour Amendment Bill 2026

Submission No: 167

Submission By: Melanie Wilson

Publication: Making the submission and your name public

I am writing to express my support for the Southport CBD being declared a "Designated Business and Community Precinct", and for stronger laws addressing illicit drug use and anti-social behaviour in the area.

I have reached out to Rob Molhoek and local councillors following a distressing incident I experienced three weeks ago on a Sunday afternoon at Australia Fair in Southport. While leaving the centre, a man who appeared heavily affected by drugs was yelling aggressively towards me and then kicked in a glass entrance door. I felt unsafe and quickly returned to my car; however, he stood beside my car continuing to yell, and I genuinely feared he may attack me or damage my vehicle. I immediately called 000 and left the area, as this occurred on Level 4 where I knew he would encounter many other people that afternoon. As a 33-year-old female and a mother of a four-month-old baby, this experience was extremely confronting and has left me deeply concerned about safety in this precinct.

I have lived on the northern Gold Coast for most of my life, attended school locally, and have worked in the Broadwater Parklands precinct for the past seven years at Catalina and now the [REDACTED]. Because of this, I have a strong connection to and understanding of the Southport area. Unfortunately, Southport's negative reputation continues to be reinforced by ongoing anti-social behaviour.

My family and I recently moved from the southern Gold Coast and purchased a home in Southport because we believed the area would continue to improve, particularly with the upcoming Olympics and investment planned for the precinct.

However, I regularly feel unsafe walking with my pram around the Australia Fair precinct, especially near the Woolworths side mall and tram areas, where I frequently observe drug and alcohol affected behaviour. I also make a conscious effort to walk on the opposite side of the road near the Gold Coast Aquatic Centre due to the known squatters in that area.

This is not an isolated feeling, and I know many locals share similar concerns.

For these reasons, I support the introduction of stronger laws to address illicit drugs and anti-social behaviour and support Southport CBD being declared a "Designated Business and Community Precinct". I believe these measures are necessary to improve safety for residents, families, businesses and visitors, and to ensure Southport can reach its full potential as an important community and economic hub on the Gold Coast.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.