



Speech by

CATE MOLLOY

MEMBER FOR NOOSA

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65TH COMMUNITY CABINET

Ms MOLLOY (Noosa—ALP) (11.58 a.m.): It gives me great pleasure to be able to deliver yet another good news story. I speak of the tremendous success of the 65th community cabinet that took place in my electorate of Noosa on 24 and 25 August. The Noosa meeting is being described as the most successful community cabinet, with the number of deputations exceeding 200. I believe the number of formal deputations was 208 and set a new record—surpassing that of Townsville's 173 set earlier this year.

I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate the Premier and his cabinet for their role in making the 65th community cabinet the best ever. But these events do not just happen. As those members who have hosted such an event would know, cabinet does not just roll into town on community cabinet day and set up shop. Indeed, a great deal of work goes on before, during and after, and I would like to personally thank all those involved. I refer not only to the Premier and his ministers but also to the ministerial and departmental staff who came along with them. Anne-Maree Maguire is typical of the many staff who helped to put these events together. My thanks go to you, Anne-Maree, for your efforts, as they do to Susan Bourne, who made my constituents who participated in community cabinet feel not only welcome but also part of the whole process.

I also thank the Sunshine Beach High School principal, Max Parnell, and staff who hosted the cabinet meeting and the Sunshine Beach Surf Life Saving Club and members for their hospitality and involvement. I must acknowledge the support that my office received from the member for Kawana, Chris Cummins, and his staff Donna and Lyn. Thank you, Chris, and, of course, I extend my thanks to the Noosa SEC and to Jeannie Wood and Tony Haslam in particular.

The Premier and the Minister for Emergency Services, Mike Reynolds, made several announcements. One very close to my heart was the \$3 million for surf lifesaving and the ongoing funding for the Woodford Festival. A special mention must also go to Coolum State High School student leaders, Emma Philtrip and Jonathon Hastings, for the role they played as hosts to the Premier's luncheon on the Monday. Thank you, guys.

But the real heroes of the day were, of course, the community, and with 208 deputations, what does that say of the people of the Sunshine Coast and the Noosa electorate in particular? We had representatives from right across my electorate. They covered all the communities in my electorate which stretches from Coolum in the south to Kin Kin in the north, west to Eumundi and east to Noosa Heads.

It was a proud moment when I took a moment to stand back and have a look around the Sunshine Beach State High School and witness all these people engaging with their government. Of all those people, the greater number of them were representing community organisations. They were not there to whinge or to have a go at the government but to truly contribute their thoughts, ideas and proposals that would go toward building better communities.

One of the many issues raised was the management of the Noosa River and deputations were received from a wide range of Noosa River stakeholders that included boat owners, fisher people, residents and ratepayers, environmental groups and, of course, the Noosa Shire Council. Commenting on the community cabinet, Noosa shire councillor Vivien Griffin was reported as saying that Premier Beattie had shown tacit support for the Noosa River plan by announcing that he had called for a submission to cabinet by the end of October 2003. Thank you, Premier.

I have been working very closely with Noosa council on the river issue. Over a year ago council resolved that getting a new Noosa River plan was one of its highest priorities. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of council and state government staff who have been working to achieve such a result.

While it was unfortunate that Maroochy shire councillors overlooked this important opportunity to raise issues directly with government ministers, their residents and ratepayers certainly did not. Coolum residents met with Minister McGrady to discuss the government's position on the Coolum Police Station. Minister McGrady confirmed that this year we allocated \$465,000 to build a new station at Coolum and that he was committed to that. Minister McGrady listened to a number of proposals with regard to a possible location for the station and indicated a willingness to continue working with the community in order to achieve the best outcome.

The government's willingness to work in partnership with the community on a range of issues, including law and order, is clearly evident in its community crime prevention strategy. Coinciding with the community cabinet was the Premier's announcement of the creation of building safer community action teams in Maroochy and Noosa shires as part of the community crime prevention strategy. These teams, comprised of state agencies, councils, business and community service providers, will work with the government in developing and implementing sustainable solutions to crime and safety issues in our community.

It is initiatives like these that set the Beattie Labor government apart from those on the other side. The success of the Noosa community is yet another example of how this government consistently listens and works with the community to ensure the best and most equitable outcomes for all. As well as giving the community an opportunity to raise a range of issues while the Premier and his ministers were in Noosa, the government was able to reinforce its commitment to the Noosa electorate and, more importantly, demonstrate its willingness to listen and support the Sunshine Coast community. It was a pleasure to be able to bring the government to the people and ensure that the voice of the electorate is being heard loud and clear.