



Speech by

## Miss FIONA SIMPSON

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

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Hansard 27 November 2001

### COOLUM POLICE STATION

**Miss SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—NPA) (12.50 a.m.): Coolum and the greater Coolum area need a new police station. The existing one is stuck in an out-of-the-way area and is not worthy of being a permanent police base for the area, particularly now that there are more people living between Peregian and the Maroochy North Shore than in Nambour. I am urging the state government to demonstrate its commitment to the Sunshine Coast by putting the Coolum and the greater Coolum area on its capital works program and building a new police station.

I would also like to see a community-based police house in the Maroochy North Shore area to improve the overall police presence. Visibility of police in the community is important for the obvious reasons of safety and crime prevention. It also improves the flow of information from the public and strengthens the working relationships between the community and the police service. I strongly believe that we need more community-based and highly visible police stations in our communities. I call on the state government to act now and identify a site for a new police station for the Coolum and greater Coolum area which is highly visible and on a main road. It should be built and it should be well resourced and well staffed to meet the demands of this high growth area.

While talking about issues of crime prevention, I wish to commend to the House the efforts of the Mooloolaba Safe Group which has been very effective and which has won awards for its efforts. It has received some government funding. It has been an example of how partnerships in the community can be effective in addressing issues of street safety. It is a good example of being proactive in addressing these issues for the future. I commend it as a model. I also commend those who participate in this group and who have given of their time voluntarily. There has been good cooperation between licensees, property owners, the police, local government, transport operators such as taxi drivers and bus drivers and many other people. They have made this effort very effective and very worth while. This type of cooperative partnership is a good example for other communities which are trying to make their communities safer. I thank those who have participated in this area for their work.

We also have the excellent Street Angels organisation. This organisation previously worked on the streets of Mooloolaba and has now extended its operations to Noosa. It is trying to help some of the young people reach the age of wisdom and protect them during that stage. These are young people who are out looking for a good time, but they are not always wise in some of their choices. The Street Angels have been excellent in their attempts to give these young people some protection on the streets and take them to places of safety.

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