



Speech by

**Miss FIONA SIMPSON**

**MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE**

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Hansard 21 February 2002

**EDUCATION [QUEENSLAND STUDIES AUTHORITY] BILL**

**Miss SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—NPA) (11.42 a.m.): I want to take this opportunity to put on the record my support for my local schools. In my electorate I have the Kuluin primary school, Maroochydore primary school, Mooloolaba primary school and Pacific Paradise primary school, as well as the state high school at Maroochydore. The Mountain Creek school is just over the boundary of my electorate, but a lot of children from my electorate are enrolled at that particularly large high school.

One particular issue that I would like to bring to the attention of the House and the minister is the need for more support in regard to appropriate set-down areas outside schools. This is certainly an issue outside the Maroochydore High School, which is beside a very busy main road. I acknowledge that the Main Roads Minister is in the House. Quite extensive consultation work was done with the Maroochydore High School when that road was upgraded in the last couple of years, and I acknowledge that there was very good consultation with the departmental officers. However, the next stage will be to expand that road to six lanes, and when that happens there will be a serious problem in relation to set-down and no-parking areas outside that school. There is an immediate problem with the existing design despite all the consultation, but with the future expansion of that road to six lanes it would be quite disastrous to lose further parking and an appropriate set-down area. So the school community has asked me to approach the state government to get its assistance in the planning process. We believe it is necessary to purchase some more land around the school to allow for a safer set-down area. I certainly urge the Main Roads Minister, who is in the chamber, and the Education Minister to help us in this process, because the opportunities into the future may sometimes be lost if people develop some of that property in a way that makes it very expensive to buy.

This is a safety issue. It is unfortunate that when we have schools on very busy roads, dealing with the mix of children, cars and buses becomes much more complex. We know that there is already a problem with that design, but the school has signed off on that design. Solutions to the future problems need to be planned now. Purchases of some of the neighbouring properties need to be initiated or at least inquiries made. Perhaps some of that property could remain as residential for quite a number of years, but at the very least we should have the option of approaching people and talking to them about this. It would require only a handful of properties and, I believe, would be in the best interests of everybody involved.

I raise another issue dealing with transport and safety issues immediately surrounding schools. I believe that this is an Education Department matter. We have schools where some of the immediate access points are dangerous. I believe that consideration needs to be given to better coordination between the Education Department, Transport and Main Roads to provide funding to specifically identify black spots around schools and fix them. The Pacific Paradise primary school is another example of this. It is a worry to the community, and I believe that their concerns are valid. Black spot funding needs to be applied to that situation because the design of the road immediately around that school is bad. We witness problems with it every day when the school is sitting and trucks are trying to go through that particular intersection. I urge the government to consider black spot funding around schools to improve set-down areas, intersections and crossings in the immediate vicinity of schools and a wider area around the schools. Some of the pathways leading to schools, which may not be right outside the front door of those schools, are equally as critical. I commend these issues to the House and to the minister who is present in the chamber. I will be following up this issue on behalf of my communities in the future.