



Speech by

## **Miss FIONA SIMPSON**

**MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE**

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Hansard 11 September 2003

### **MOOLOOLABA PRIMARY SCHOOL; MAROOCHYDORE STATE HIGH SCHOOL**

**Miss SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—NPA) ( 7.15 p.m.): It is with pleasure that I rise to acknowledge the great work of Mooloolaba Primary School. They have done extremely well within the showcase awards, as was acknowledged by the Education Minister this morning. Among the many great schools on the Sunshine Coast, they have really taken a very creative approach to encouraging their students to be the best that they can be in these important areas. They do a great job.

I also want to raise another important issue, which is about Maroochydore State High School. This high school is growing. After the growth of Mountain Creek High School there were a number of students that went to alternative high schools, but Maroochydore High School is growing. It has approximately 1,400 students, but it is located on an extremely busy main road. Our concern is that there needs to be an appropriate set-down area for parents to safely drop their children off and pick them up after school. There is a bus set-down area. That space doubled in size with the upgrade of the Maroochydore Road a few years ago. However, there is not adequate space for a safe dropping zone for cars to come and go.

I have asked for a meeting with the Education Department representatives and the Main Roads to look at what the best planning solution is for this problem. There really needs to be money that is also attached to this. Current government programs only have a 50-50 arrangement where you can apply for about 50 per cent of the set-down work and seek to get the balance paid for by the local council, as an example. There is a fair amount of unfairness in expecting local councils to pick up even this amount of the costs in many of these circumstances where the pressures that are coming on are not do with council roads. That is certainly the situation with Maroochydore High School. I will be making representations to the government as we try to develop the best set-down model for that area to see what can be done as far as funding for that is concerned.

There is also the issue of the manual arts building which I have raised with the education minister. I previously raised the problem of the leaking roof and the problem with asbestos. Those issues were acknowledged. It was acknowledged that there needed to be a new roof. As the school has said, it is great to have the money for the new roof but that money would be far better spent on a new manual arts building. It is a workplace health and safety issue. I understand that the time frame for spending the money for the roof upgrade is limited to the next couple of months.

I am urging the government to see that funding is provided. It is essential for the school. This school missed out on the substantial funding available in the first round of the secondary high school renewal program. There is an equity issue. It is an ageing school. I hope that we will have a favourable result from the Education Minister when considering this request. I look forward to seeing a positive result on this.