



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

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GOLD COAST SPIT; GOLD COAST CITY WIND ORCHESTRA

Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—Lib) (6.24 pm): Tonight I would like to draw the attention of the House to the recent grants that were made under the Legacy Infrastructure Program. As a resident of the Gold Coast, I am most pleased that south-east Queensland received a generous share of the grants made under the Labor government's \$100 million Legacy Infrastructure Fund. I support many of the projects that received funding, such as the Southport Broadwater Parklands redevelopment. I believe that grant will go a long way towards improving the amenity of the Gold Coast, as other grants that were made to other parts of Queensland will improve their amenity.

Having said that, I am disappointed that another important public area on the Gold Coast has again missed out on important funding by this state government. Since the Labor government abandoned plans for a cruise ship terminal at The Spit, it seems that beautification plans for that neglected area have fallen to the bottom of this government's agenda. The Spit at Main Beach is one of the tranquil and naturally beautiful recreation areas for families, boaties and beach goers on the Gold Coast, but it needs some attention. Gold Coasters rely on the tireless work of volunteer groups to keep The Spit and scenic Federation Walk up to standard. As the member for Surfers Paradise, I can understand their frustration when their pleas for funding are ignored by this Labor government.

I am fortunate to be a member of Friends of Federation Walk Inc. Recently, I attended its annual general meeting. This organisation has gone from strength to strength. It evolved from a subcommittee of the Main Beach Progress Association, of which I am also a member, to a fully fledged dynamic group that is committed to improving the amenity of The Spit. I want to acknowledge the group's president, Lyn Wright; the secretary, Arnold Wolthers; and the treasurer, Hyla Gimblett.

I call on the government to support the Friends of Federation Walk Inc. by ensuring that this picturesque coastal reserve continues to be protected, maintained and adequately funded. My own vision and ambition for the area is another people's parkland like the one that exists on the Broadwater, which will encourage more people to utilise this fantastic natural facility.

The second organisation that I would like to draw to the attention of the House is the Gold Coast City Wind Orchestra. This week, despite my lack of musical ability, for the third year in a row I was once again made patron of the Gold Coast City Wind Orchestra. This group operates on little funding but a lot of enthusiasm from its members. As a result of their enthusiasm, hard work and talent, the Gold Coast City Wind Orchestra will attend the national championships in Melbourne in April. Last year it won a national award. I am looking forward to later in the year when the orchestra will host its annual concert and compete in the Gold Coast Tropicarnival Eisteddfod.

I am honoured to be involved in the Gold Coast City Wind Orchestra and I support it in every one of its endeavours. I want to acknowledge the award winners: the 2006 Certificate of Attendance, Junior, Gemma Walker and Senior, Stephen Walker; the Most Improved Player, Junior, Jessica Brake and Senior, Jodie Michael; and the Bandperson of the year, Sally Gregory. I also acknowledge the director of music, who has done a lot of hard work, Alan White, and the president, Melanie Woodley.