



Speech by

## Peta-Kaye Croft

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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### GOLD COAST FISHERMEN'S COOPERATIVE, SOUTHPORT SPIT JETTY

**Ms CROFT** (Broadwater—ALP) (5.26 pm): The Gold Coast community has warmly welcomed an assistance package recently announced by the Premier and the natural resources minister to assist Gold Coast commercial fishers. These fishers, who are based at the Southport Spit, have been a fixture of Gold Coast life for a number of years. They have provided the freshest seafood on both a wholesale and retail basis to the public. There are not many places where people can get a kilo of prawns straight off the boat with the sea water still dripping off them. Unfortunately, the nine jetties being used by the Gold Coast Fishermen's Cooperative had to be closed after one fisherman was injured when he fell through a rotten walkway.

Workplace Health and Safety officials ruled the jetties were unsafe and they could not be used. The members of the Gold Coast Fishermen's Cooperative have had to use a number of temporary locations to land their catch, including nearby beaches. This situation was far from ideal, and that is why my colleague Peter Lawlor, the member for Southport, met with fishermen and I met with a number of residents who came and registered their concern about this situation. We made our representations to the Premier and the minister for natural resources, and that is why it is great to see that the Premier and the minister put together a package to assist these fishers. The deal was hammered out on an early morning walk with all parties last week. The package includes that the government will remove the old jetties and install new pylons at a cost of \$120,000. The Gold Coast Fishermen's Cooperative will then get a special \$240,000 government loan to purchase replacement portable jetties. The jetties will remain the property of the cooperative, which will be able to resell them once a more permanent solution can be found. I believe that this is a win for the fishers and it is also a win for Gold Coast locals and the Gold Coast tradition of buying fresh prawns straight off the boat.