



Speech by


## Fiona Simpson

**MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE**

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### COOLUM POLICE STATION

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (8.42 pm): We need to give police the right resources to keep our communities safe. That is a sentiment everyone would agree is so important, but it needs to be put into action. We have seen tragic events in recent times to reaffirm that our police really are at the front line of our communities doing tough and dangerous work. Sadly, when tragedies such as the recent shooting occur, it just brings into focus how much we have to be thankful for those who put their lives on the line for the rest of the community.

I want to raise a specific issue of police resourcing on the Sunshine Coast, and that is the Coolum Police Station. This police station is in a temporary facility with a lease that was about to expire. I understand that negotiations have been underway to extend the lease, but the history of the Coolum Police Station and its uncertain tenure is something that I want to highlight in this House.

It is unacceptable to have a community of this size without a permanent police station and with a lease in such a tenuous situation. The site on which the temporary police station was leased in 2003 in Williams Street and built at a cost of \$700,000 recently saw a situation where that tenure was running out. When this station was opened in 2005 the then police minister, Judy Spence, said that it would operate on this site in this building for about five to seven years. Well, it is 2011, the lease has almost expired and still a permanent site has not been acquired.

Good planning saves money, but it also provides a message to a community that their services and those police officers at the front line are being properly supported. I call on the police minister and this government to ensure that a permanent site in the centre of Coolum is found—not this situation where the lease almost expired and they scrambled to extend it with no permanency. It must be resolved. It is about ensuring that this community has certainty and that the police officers who are out there doing the difficult work that they do know that they are receiving the appropriate support.