



Speech by


## Fiona Simpson

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

Hansard Thursday, 16 February 2012

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### MOOLOOLAH RIVER, DREDGING

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (3.44 pm): The state Labor government's flip-flopping over promised action to improve safety at the Mooloolah River mouth stands condemned. Only weeks ago at a meeting I convened with Maritime Safety Queensland and council, the government said that it was investigating more effective upgrades to the dredging program at the Mooloolaba Harbour entrance. Specifically I was advised that options to be investigated were a mobile sand shifter or a new submerged pipeline under the river mouth to allow the dredge to operate more from the eastern rock wall which would improve access for boats—a more efficient process as the dredge would not have to move out of the way of a very busy area of boating traffic. This latter option in particular I am keen to see investigated.

However, media reports now suggest that a faceless, nameless government spokesperson is saying that neither of these options will happen as they are too costly. I challenge the government to release the report of its investigations, as you cannot make a promise one week and dismiss it the next. Where are the reports that back up its claims that it was undertaking these investigations? They must be released because, quite frankly, it is unacceptable to make a commitment to investigate these options and then the next week walk away.

This build-up of sand at the harbour mouth over the last few weeks has caused quite a deal of havoc to recreational and commercial boaters. This passageway is a vital link for our recreational and commercial boating operators. We need to see a guarantee of timely funding for ongoing maintenance at this river entrance, even when council's beach replenishment program is not required under the joint council and state funding arrangements. The harbour entrance used to be one of the safest areas to access still water—

*(Time expired)*