




Speech By
Hon. Fiona Simpson

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

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ADJOURNMENT

Maroochydore Electorate

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (2.16 am): As Speaker, I represent the whole parliament, but I am also the member for Maroochydore where I am a passionate advocate for my area and region. It is in this capacity I rise to report on some great outcomes I have been working with my colleagues to deliver locally on the Sunshine Coast. It is a positive report card of new infrastructure worth billions of dollars, road upgrades and new front-line staff. It is also a report card on cutting red tape for small business and working to create the economic climate where business can create the jobs our region needs.

This week I welcomed a great announcement which helps a project I have championed—the upgrade of the Sunshine Coast Airport. The state government's support for the new Sunshine Coast Airport expansion by gifting crown land to council will help create jobs and get this project off the ground. It is up, up and away with a brighter future for the Sunshine Coast under a government with a 'can-do' attitude. I thank the Premier and the Deputy Premier for their support of this significant land transfer. This 'can-do' attitude is not only about money being spent, but about common-sense decisions.

After years of obstruction and red tape from the previous government, we got a win from this new government within months. Thanks to transport minister, Scott Emerson, we approved a bigger lease for the Coast Guard at Mooloolaba so they have space to train their volunteers and store their equipment. These wonderful volunteers had been stymied but now they are powering ahead.

I commend the wonderful Mooloolaba Rotary Club for doing the work which is bringing this building to fruition. I also welcome new private sector investment as we work with local council who have the planning responsibility to get the balance right—more jobs while looking after our natural environment. Business confidence is returning, boosted by the state's \$1.8 billion investment in our new Sunshine Coast University Hospital—a hospital equivalent to the size of the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital—which will deliver public health services for free.

In other wins, Maroochydore Road has benefitted from a \$3.2 million makeover, with an extra \$5 million commitment for work on further sections to take place this year. The Bruce Highway upgrade will now be delivered thanks to a funding partnership with the new federal government. Some \$7 million is being spent on our new bus station. The Sunshine Motorway has also received half a million dollars for safety upgrades north of the Maroochy River and south of Coolum which has made a huge difference. We have also spent about a million dollars improving the safety of the Mooloolaba harbour entrance.

There are 19 more police officers in the Sunshine Coast region and five extra intensive care paramedics based at Maroochydore. Our schools now have the choice to be able to employ local contractors to drive their dollar further with their maintenance budget. Pacific Paradise Primary School has loved it. Many other schools are finding they are getting much better value and are able to focus on great education outcomes.