




Speech By
Rob Molhoek

MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Southport Electorate, International Women's Day

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (3.30 pm): Tomorrow we will observe International Women's Day—a global day of recognition of women's rights and a celebration of inspiring women throughout history. In the early 1900s the first International Women's Days were celebrated as part of the ongoing campaign for equality. Women wanted to work, to vote and to hold public office. It is a testament to their determination and will that today women hold equal rights to men at home, at the office and in society. Young women finishing school face endless career opportunities and possibilities, many more than those available to women at the beginning of last century.

Locally, International Women's Day presents an opportunity to again celebrate and recognise those women—those community heroes—who dynamically and passionately work towards better outcomes for my local community. May I just say that there are a whole host of inspirational women in Southport, all doing important and amazing things for our community. Vicki Batten is just one of these women, the CEO of FSG Australia, an organisation dedicated to providing assistance to members of the community who are less fortunate than others with a focus on social justice and human rights. Vicki's commitment and passion for these issues is clearly evident and has a tremendous impact on the lives of FSG's clients and staff.

Our local councillor Dawn Crichlow is yet another woman doing fantastic things for Southport. You will struggle to find a Southport resident who does not know Dawn and what she has done for the community. Dawn has been fighting for Southport since being elected to council in 1991 and is the patron of many Gold Coast organisations—a testament to her keen interest and dedication to the community. In today's *Gold Coast Bulletin*, Dawn is championing the expansion of the Gold Coast rapid transit system and the possibility of a connection to the heavy rail. Dawn and I share the same passion for the reinvigoration of the Southport CBD. Dawn has always prioritised Southport's needs and will continue to be an inspirational and hardworking councillor for years to come.

This year, however, I have nominated Neighbourhood Watch advocate Karen Bulmer from my electorate to receive the Queensland Inspiring Women-Speaker's Award. Community champion Karen Bulmer says Crestwood Heights is a community referred to as 'Pleasantville' by local police. What a great accomplishment for this Crestwood community—to live and maintain a neighbourhood that has a reputation for kindness, compassion and a great sense of community. Karen has been the friendly coordinator of Southport 10 Crestwood Heights Neighbourhood Watch for the past seven years and, as with many Neighbourhood Watch groups, their job is to keep an eye out for any suspicious activity in the area and to report anything unusual to the police. Karen and the Crestwood

Heights Neighbourhood Watch group are evidence that residents can play a vital role in the protection of their communities. This group has previously supplied information to our Southport police which has directly led to the arrest of burglars targeting the Crestwood Heights area. Karen's dedication to and support of her Neighbourhood Watch group is nothing short of amazing, and I want to acknowledge both her and the Crestwood Heights group and other Neighbourhood Watch groups in the area for their commitment.