




Speech By
Rob Molhoek

MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Southport

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (3.39 pm): I rise to update the House on the progress that has been made in respect of my election commitment to lead the charge regarding the reinvigoration and redevelopment of Southport as the natural central business district of the Gold Coast. As we look towards 2018 with the centenary of Southport and the Commonwealth Games, it is important that we work with the Gold Coast council and the community to maximise every opportunity. I am pleased to announce that this week the council at its full council meeting resolved to commence preparations for a priority development area declaration request for Southport and will be seeking the assistance of this government and our newly formed department, Economic Development Queensland, in preparing a PDA for that area.

I am particularly excited about this, because last November I had the privilege of hosting the Premier at a Southport Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Gold Coast Combined Chamber of Commerce breakfast at Southport Sharks—one of the premier locations in my electorate—and it was on that occasion that the Premier spoke very strongly and passionately about commitments that he made prior to the election when he was out campaigning with me about just how important Southport is and how important it is to make sure that Southport thrives in the future. The new light rail will be operating sometime in the next 12 months and the Commonwealth Games village expression of interest is out to the market now. The new Southport swimming complex is under construction. There are just so many other wonderful things happening in the area.

I particularly want to pay tribute to Councillor Dawn Crichlow, who has been the councillor for the area for some 27 years. She has been a great advocate for Southport. She has continued to fight and I know that Dawn particularly is very excited about the opportunities that will come as this government works closely with the council in making these commitments and dreams a reality.

I want to refer to an article in today's *Gold Coast Bulletin*, which states that Mayor Tom Tate is going to write to the government about this matter. I am particularly excited that the council is not just requesting that Southport be classified as a PDA but it has said that it is time for Southport to be recognised once again as the business capital of the Gold Coast. I remember as a child growing up that Surfers Paradise was always seen as the tourism capital—there used to be posters around that said that—but Southport was always marked as the business capital of the Gold Coast. I am excited to see that become a reality.