




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR COOMERA

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Gold Coast International Marine Expo

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (11.11 am): A couple of weekends ago in the state seat of Coomera there was a fine demonstration of business opportunity on display at the Gold Coast International Marine Expo. I see the smile on the face of Mr Deputy Speaker. He attended the official opening and spent some time at the marine expo, as did a number of my colleagues from this side of the House. It was a pleasure to walk through the 3.2 kilometres of displays. Everything to do with the marine industry was on display at the facility. It is a massive facility. The Coomera marine precinct is, in fact, the biggest marine precinct for the construction and sale of boats in Australia. It is far and away the biggest area for this type of work. We see as a result of this much larger number of displays than last time a demonstration that business is being rebuilt, that the marine industry is on its way back from the lows of 2009 when we saw hundreds—in fact, thousands—of people having to leave the industry because of the effects of the global financial crisis that hit us in 2008. They are coming back.

We are now looking at a further boost to that comeback of the industry by way of the Coomera dredge sediment management facility that is necessary for us to be able to properly dredge the Coomera River. In cases such as the Broadwater the sands can be taken out into the deep and dumped and only come back to shore in front of Surfers Paradise, but unfortunately the material that is in the Coomera River cannot simply be dumped in other areas. It needs to be processed. It is a sediment. People would appreciate it is a river. The sediment does need to be dumped somewhere so therefore this facility had to be put in place. It could have cost us a great deal of growth in the Coomera marine precinct if we were not able to pull this together. I thank the Deputy Premier for his support in facilitating this dredge facility.

Having this facility means that we will be able to bring much bigger boats into the Coomera marine precinct for fit-outs and refits and we can build bigger boats. In fact, one of the local boat builders who does some work for the state government as well was telling me that he employs around 60 people in his boat manufacturing and refit facility and that that number will immediately jump by 30 people. That is a 50 per cent increase in the size of his business and another 30 jobs in the Coomera electorate.

This is about economic development in the largest electorate in Queensland. It is not the largest by land size, nor by the number of high-rise buildings, but the largest electorate in Queensland by elector. In 2009 there were 28,764 electors in the state seat of Coomera. That number has risen to 37,631 as at September—15.68 per cent over the average of 32,500 electors per electorate around the state. It is the fastest growing region in Australia. We have seven new schools coming online by 2015. We also have a TAFE that has been there since 2009. This is an area that is demonstrating confidence in the future, a confidence that is being met by this government in providing the challenging infrastructure that is needed for the state seat of Coomera to move forward in the Northern Gold Coast area.