




Speech By
Rob Molhoek

MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT

Record of Proceedings, 4 March 2014

ADJOURNMENT

Southport Electorate, Projects

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (9.25 pm): Tonight I rise to provide an update on some of the projects underway or on the drawing board in Southport as we head towards 2018—the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games and Southport's centenary year. It is exciting to see the first games legacy project take shape, as the Gold Coast Aquatic Centre is now 75 per cent complete and on track to being completed in June 2014—almost four years ahead of the games. I acknowledge the Minister for Tourism and member for Currumbin for her excellent work in helping to negotiate that outcome. Local industry participation in the \$41 million Gold Coast Aquatic Centre redevelopment has so far been high, with approximately 60 per cent representation from the Gold Coast region and a total of 93 per cent from South-East Queensland. Later this year the centre will host the 2014 Pan Pacific championships and Southport will welcome more than 300 of the world's best swimmers. Every Commonwealth Games venue is being designed to align with long-term local planning strategies that will leave an important infrastructure legacy for South-East Queensland. Planning is currently underway for a further four new venues and five upgraded venues both on the Gold Coast and in Brisbane. Engaging local industry and generating jobs is one of the key objectives for our government. The Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games is expected to generate an estimated \$2 billion of economic injection into the Gold Coast and up to 30,000 full-time equivalent jobs.

Another significant project in my electorate is the demolition of the former Southport Hospital site and the preparation of the site for sale. To lead this project, the state government has appointed Aurecon as the project manager to provide technical advice and inform decisions. Aurecon's project manager is locally based at its Southport office in the Seabank Building. The development opportunities for the old Southport Hospital site are virtually unlimited, being an integral site in the middle of the Gold Coast CBD with direct access to the Gold Coast light rail system and within the Southport Priority Development Area. Consultation with industry and community revealed a strong desire to realise the site's potential as a major contributor to the Southport CBD and demolish the existing buildings in order to maximise the appeal for investors and developers. We have a unique opportunity to create a landmark site—one that will define Southport as an innovative CBD and contribute to the growing health and knowledge precinct.

It does not surprise me to learn that the Queensland economy, under the can-do government, grew at 4.1 per cent in the same period that the rest of Australia grew at 1.9 per cent. We can see this growth in the development activity and interest in Southport and on the Gold Coast. As the member for Southport, my priority has always been the creation of permanent jobs. I am proud to be a member of the Newman government as we deliver on our promise to build a strong four-pillar economy and to ensure jobs growth and job security for all Queenslanders.