




Speech By  
**Rob Molhoek**

**MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT**

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### **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (12.09 am): I rise to provide a brief response to the budget on behalf of the people of Southport. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Treasurer on his hard work in preparing what is an outstanding budget. He has taken us on an incredible journey over the past two years and two months since coming to government. I can only begin to imagine some of the challenges that he has had in working with his colleagues in cabinet to deliver the outcomes and this positive future for Queensland.

I also especially want to congratulate and thank the Minister for Health, because I know that the people of the Southport electorate and the people of the Gold Coast are incredibly appreciative of the major reforms that have come to their health system and the significant reductions in waiting lists and waiting times. I will go into more detail in just a moment. Congratulations should also go to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services because of the extra police that we have seen put into the Southport electorate—the special operations task force that has been installed on the Gold Coast to deal with criminal gangs and the other challenges that we face on the Gold Coast. There is also the implementation and the ongoing commitment to a dedicated police chopper for the Gold Coast, which I know has also been very welcome.

In addition, it would be remiss not to acknowledge the great work of the Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services in working with the Treasurer to bring forward a whole suite of changes to our child protection system and that extra \$400-odd million that has been committed this year and in the forward years to support the major reforms out of the Carmody inquiry.

I know that this sounds like a mutual admiration evening, but I want to acknowledge the work that the Minister for Education has done. I particularly want to acknowledge the incredible work that has been done with Southport State High School, our first independent public school, and the hard work of principal Steve McLuckie and his team in taking that school from a school that was struggling, a school that was quite dilapidated and run-down looking, with enrolments down to as low as 700. This year is the school's largest ever enrolment year, with some 1,800 students. Southport State High School is without a doubt one of the most outstanding public high schools in our state. So I want to acknowledge Minister Langbroek for his ongoing support as the member for the electorate of Surfers Paradise, which adjoins my electorate, and for the work that he has done in reforming our education system and the many other reforms that I will go into in a little more detail in just a moment.

The Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games has done a great job in revitalising one of the most important pillars of our economy, our tourism industry. Today, I read in one of the latest reports that there were an extra 57,000 international visitors to the Gold Coast, taking that total up to record numbers that we have never seen before. We have come off just an absolute bumper season for the Gold Coast. In terms of tourism and in terms of the minister's achievements, it is absolutely everything that the Gold Coast has needed to bring it out of what has been a really difficult couple of years.

I hope that I do not upset my colleagues this evening, but I doubt that there is another electorate in Queensland that has so much to be pleased about—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr MOLHOEK:** I knew that I was going to get those interjections. Aside from the funding that has been committed for the Commonwealth Games village and the jobs that that will create, there is also the money that has gone into the new aquatic centre at Southport, which we will see opening within a matter of months. There is further funding for other Commonwealth Games facilities in my electorate, with an upgrade of the Gold Coast Hockey Centre at Labrador. On top of all of that, we are seeing record spending going into the Gold Coast health district. Of course, the Gold Coast University Hospital is located right in the middle of my electorate. I am just so pleased to see that we have added almost another \$100 million of spending into health services in support of that hospital and also a further \$57 million for additional equipment, fit-out and completion of that hospital. How amazing has that hospital been for the Gold Coast!

In addition, there is also some \$50-odd million that has been committed for the widening of Smith Street and, more importantly, a brand-new interchange between Smith Street and Olsen Avenue just to the west of Griffith University, which is going to significantly free up traffic flows in the area, support access into the hospital and the university and also provide better access through Smith Street into Southport which, as I am sure members are all sick of me talking about, has recently been declared a priority development area. We are seeing just some fantastic things happening in Southport.

The other day the local councillor for my electorate told me that just in the last few months there have been 17 approvals for buildings in excess of eight storeys, including two 70-storey buildings and a 30-storey tower. She even told me just two days ago that an application is about to be lodged for another significant tower on the site at Ferry Road and Meron Street in Southport just adjacent to the old hospital site.

I am also particularly pleased that the Southport electorate will receive a further \$4.4 million in funding for the renovation of the Gold Coast campus of TAFE in the main street of Southport. I am pleased to note that \$9 million has been allocated for child safety services in the area, a further \$19 million for local disability service providers, many of whom are based in the main CBD area of Southport, and a further \$4 million for local community service providers.

On top of that there is a budget commitment towards the demolition of the old hospital site, clearing the way for some really exciting development opportunities as we continue to see Southport and the CBD regenerate and new buildings and new opportunities coming to provide jobs and opportunities for people on the Gold Coast.

I note also that the Gold Coast Turf Club will benefit from \$11 million for some redevelopment and the relocation of the Gold Coast show, which is pleasing. Also, some money has been allocated for planning the duplication of the Gold Coast line from Coomera to Helensvale. Although that line is just outside my electorate, many people from Crestwood, Arundel and Parkwood rely on that rail service to commute for jobs in the north of the city and to Brisbane. I know that they will be particularly excited to hear about our government's future plans for the duplication of that service from Coomera to Helensvale. I understand that some \$160 million to \$170 million has been allocated in future estimates for the provision and expansion of those services.

This budget continues to deliver a strong plan for a brighter future. I am particularly proud to stand in this House tonight as a member of the Newman government that is driving real change for Queenslanders. It is bringing about real change on the Gold Coast particularly, because this budget carefully balances increases in education, health and community services spending while not introducing or raising any new taxes or reducing services. That is important.

I also want to acknowledge and thank the Premier and the Treasurer for their leadership in working through the challenge in respect of the gap in concessions funding that was passed on to us as a result of cuts by the federal government. I know just from feedback to my office today that a lot of pensioners and concession cardholders out there are particularly pleased about that news.

I have to take a moment to brag about our government's achievements. It is incredibly pleasing to see that robberies are down 18 per cent on the Gold Coast as a result of our tough stance on law and order. Break and enters are down 30 per cent as a result of more police and the new legislation that was introduced by this government. Assaults are down 15 per cent. Theft is down 12 per cent. Just in the last few months we have seen an extra 19 police added to the Southport Police Station. That is all part of our government's commitment to making Queensland the safest place to raise a family. It is particularly exciting to see the statistics in regard to the Gold Coast health district.

We have seen 75 per cent of all emergency department visits seen in under four hours, which is a significant improvement, up from 60 per cent. We are now enjoying the best elective surgery wait times in Australia, down to 27 days, and long wait surgery wait times are down from 185 days to 51 days. Again I have to congratulate the health minister on the great outcomes that we saw with the recent negotiation of SMO contracts. It was particularly pleasing to receive an email from the head of the emergency department at the Gold Coast Hospital, not only congratulating us on the compromises we made and the final outcome, but also advising that all of his colleagues had, in fact, signed their contracts and they were really looking forward to inviting me down for a tour and to actually get to know them a little better. They are just so pleased with the reforms that have come.

I could go on because there are just so many great things happening in Southport: the money that has been allocated for school maintenance, another \$1.13 million, for Arundel, Musgrave, Southport State High School, Southport State Primary School and also Southport Special School. I know that the principals and the P&Cs of those schools are absolutely delighted with the level of that support. I particularly want to thank the Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing for the incredible contribution through the Get Started initiative. Some \$76,000 worth of vouchers have been allocated to individuals throughout my electorate over the last 12 months. As that program continues it is particularly exciting to think that there are many children now that can participate in sport as a result of our government's commitment to getting kids involved in local sport. This is a government that will continue to take action to reduce red tape and initiate reforms. We are committed to supporting our communities with better front-line services and it is with great pleasure that I support this bill.