




Speech By  
**Rob Molhoek**

**MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT**

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Record of Proceedings, 9 September 2014

**MOTION: GOLD COAST CRUISE SHIP TERMINAL**

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (5.50 pm): I have to say that the Labor Party's hypocrisy on this issue is just breathtaking.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order! Pause the clock. I warn members on my left. I am having trouble hearing the member because of the loud interjections. I call the member for Southport.

**Mr MOLHOEK:** I think the member for South Brisbane needs a bit of a history lesson, because I remember what happened the last time we went through this process. The Labour government of the day sought to impose its will on the people of the Gold Coast. It went out to the development industry, and I saw some of the proposals that came in during my time as a councillor with the Gold Coast City Council. We had no say and we had no opportunity to respond. We were not even included in the process. The then Labor Premier of Queensland sought to impose his will to benefit his developer mates and the people that were backing the Labor Party at the time, and some of those proposals were breathtaking. We were not seeing proposals for a small development on The Spit or maybe something on Wave Break Island; they were talking about pumping up brand new islands in the middle of the Broadwater. They were talking about building the Burj Al Arab just out in front of Versace in the middle of the Broadwater on what is one of the best migratory bird habitats on the Broadwater.

The Labor Party have absolutely no credentials to speak of on this matter because they are hypocrites, and they need to go back a few years and listen. As the Deputy Premier has quite rightly pointed out today, Mayor Tom Tate of the Gold Coast City Council came to us and asked if we would engage in a process of consultation. Over the last 12 months this government has undertaken to give the people of the Gold Coast a fair and reasonable opportunity to respond. I have had people coming into my office saying that they want this development; I have had other people coming into my office saying that they are absolutely opposed to it. People have said, 'You need to protect the Broadwater.' 'You need to protect The Spit.'

I understand their passion because, unlike the member for South Brisbane and the members of the opposition, I actually care about this place. I went sailing on the Broadwater as a child long before there was ever a seaway; I have sailed out through what was the old Southport Bar. I have seen the work that people have done in developing The Spit. As a young child I lay in bed at night hearing the trucks rumbling down from the hinterland with boulders to build the seaway. I walk on The Spit regularly; I have surfed there with my kids. I have worked with the people from the Federation Walk to plant trees and to preserve that beautiful environment of The Spit. But it is the people of the Gold Coast who should have a say, and the challenge now is for the proponent to come forward and satisfy the requirements that were spelled out in the Deputy Premier's letter of February this year.

Let us continue to talk about Labor's credentials. The member for South Brisbane said, 'Look at what a great job we did in delivering the convention centre for the Gold Coast.' I was there when that

debate was going on. I was running the commercial radio stations, and if we had not put pressure on the government of the day, and if the community had not risen up and bludgeoned the Labour government of the day into supporting the convention centre, it never would have happened because we dragged them kicking and screaming every inch of the way to promise to deliver that centre for the Gold Coast. Let us talk about—

**Ms Trad** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order! Pause the clock. I now warn the member for South Brisbane. The noise is just getting too loud.

**Mr Seeney:** Is that your last warning?

**Madam SPEAKER:** That is the last warning, and I am warning you because it is too loud. I cannot hear the member. This is ridiculous. I will start addressing that under the standing orders. I call the member for Southport.

**Mr MOLHOEK:** Let us talk about Labor's record on the light rail. That project was first envisaged back when they were in government in 1997, and then it went through proposals and a range of transport studies. In 1999 it was proposed, and then the council of the day went to the state Labor government which procrastinated for so long that, instead of the original \$480 million cost to build, they waited until the market was at its peak to do the land acquisition that was required such that the final project cost has ended up being more than \$1.5 billion. That is Labornomics for you: We have a great idea. We are going to commit to it. No, we won't. Maybe we should. Maybe we will. Maybe we won't. They then go out and buy the property at the peak of the market, and that is why we do not have stage 2 of the light rail. The Labor government squandered Queensland's opportunity, squandered our wealth, racked up debt, paid far too much for the land in the corridor, allowed it to roll on and roll on and managed it inefficiently such that there was no money left for stage 2, and now we have a light rail that basically goes from nowhere to nowhere.

I am looking forward to the day when, through the strong choices of this government, the finances of this state are restored and we have the opportunity to rectify some of the ongoing mismanagement and financial blowouts of that disgraceful Labor government over there. They have the audacity to challenge us, when we are out there talking to the community and giving the community an opportunity to respond. All they wanted to do was steamroll the people of the Gold Coast with the exact same proposal, but it was far more breathtaking and took up far more land in the Broadwater than was ever proposed under the current—

*(Time expired)*