




Speech By
Rob Molhoek

MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Southport Electorate

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (3.21 pm): I rise to update the House on some of the wonderful things happening in my electorate of Southport and to provide a brief update on my activities since being asked to take on the role of shadow minister for housing and public works. I am particularly proud of all that is happening within my electorate. Since the LNP government's declaration of Southport as a priority development area, the focus on Southport has been sensational, resulting in almost \$2 billion of new commercial projects and development approvals. But that is not all.

The Commonwealth Games early works at Parklands are well underway and we are just weeks away from the completion of upgrades to Smith Street and Olsen Avenue, including the new interchange of flyovers and additional lanes adjacent to Griffith University and the new Gold Coast University Hospital. Just this week, we saw the opening of another 1,150 car-parking spaces at Griffith University.

I am also delighted to see Chinatown developing within the Southport CDB. It has been such a pleasure to work with council and our local business community on its evolution. While the precinct still has a long way to go, it sends a very clear welcome message to our very many Asian visitors and delegations. It is also great to see so many people turning out for the new Chinatown street food market, which will be on again this Saturday.

Southport is a wonderful part of the Gold Coast and I am so proud of the many community groups that work together to help others.

Mr Crandon: It's not the best part, though.

Mr MOLHOEK: I thank the member for his interjection. Recently, to mark Domestic Violence Prevention Month in May, I joined Manuela and Zoe from Assist A Sista at a fundraising lunch to talk about strategies to tackle this all-too-prevalent social issue. Next week in my electorate I will be joined by shadow Attorney-General Ian Walker, the honourable member for Mansfield, for a fundraising breakfast in support of the Gold Coast Community Legal Centre & Advice Bureau. That organisation, capably run by director Victoria Shield and her team of volunteer solicitors, has been assisting the Gold Coast community for over 30 years. Now more than ever, they are in need of solicitors who can give their time to help our most vulnerable community members. Next week our goal is to raise as much money as possible to support their service and recruit as many volunteers as we can. Next month I will be pleased to host a lunch, with support from Luke Altschwager from Parkwood International Golf Club, to raise money for the Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence. That is an incredible organisation that will celebrate 25 years of working in our community. Everybody on the Gold Coast knows what a great job Di Macleod does.

Over the past three months I have been travelling around Queensland to meet with housing providers and industry groups to better understand the challenges facing our many wonderful non-government service agencies. It has been a pleasure to visit places such as Cairns, Palm Island, Rockhampton and Emu Park and even spend some time at Airlie Beach. What I am hearing is how disappointed many of those housing providers are that the incoming government is not committed to the development of more public and social housing. They are holding up the stock transfers and funding programs our government developed to increase the capacity of housing providers across Queensland and they are failing to help meet the huge demand and maintenance backlogs we inherited in 2012.