




Speech By
Rob Molhoek

MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT

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ADJOURNMENT

Gold Coast Waterways Authority

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (9.10 pm): I rise this evening to remind the parliament about the great achievements of the Gold Coast Waterways Authority. Some years ago, when I first ran for the seat of Southport, there was a great deal of concern about the lack of a coordinated management process around the various agencies that were involved in taking care of the some 168 kilometres of Gold Coast waterways, particularly the Broadwater area, parts of Stradbroke, the foreshore areas of Southport and the Spit. The Newman government in the last term sought to establish a coordinated approach to this and established the Gold Coast Waterways Authority. What a great job they have done.

Over the past few years we have seen an amazing amount of maintenance work undertaken the length of breadth of the Broadwater. We have seen new facilities constructed over at the Spit and Doug Jennings Park, including a new amenities block with a rising main to connect the amenities block and the kiosk at the end of the Spit to the sewerage system. That was one of the things the community particularly asked for. We have also recently seen major restoration works of the western side of Doug Jennings Park—an area referred to as 'the finger', around the old marine stadium. This includes some 4,000 new trees planted in that area, bollards and security gates installed, more bins, enhanced security and new roadways which now restrict illegal access for campers and four-wheel drivers.

I am particularly pleased about the outstanding work the authority has done, in conjunction with Gold Coast City Council and with funding from the previous government, to complete that magnificent new boat ramp on the Southport foreshore. The boat ramp and the parking areas that adjoin it are effectively stage 3 of the re-establishment of the Broadwater Parklands that began back in 2005. It is fantastic to see that final stage, with the completion of the parklands and the new aquatic centre and now one of the finest boat-launching facilities in the state, if not in Australia. I can assure the House that the local boaties are enjoying the new facilities. I even ventured down there early one Saturday morning and demonstrated my worst—or perhaps best—reversing skills with a boat trailer to launch my jet ski. It was a little calamitous!

It would be remiss of me not to commend the great work of the Gold Coast Waterways Authority. It has been a great initiative. I really believe that the Gold Coast and those who live in and around the Broadwater have benefited from the establishment of that authority some four years ago.