




Speech By
Fiona Simpson

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

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ADJOURNMENT

Twin Waters West, Proposed Development

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (12.02 am): I am aware that local residents are concerned about the proposed amendment of the Sunshine Coast Regional Council's town plan to permit development at Twin Waters West on former cane land abutting the Sunshine Motorway. While this area is within the urban footprint of the SEQ Regional Plan, it is not within the current urban area of the council's town plan. However, the council has voted to include it, subject to state government approval.

There are two main concerns—traffic and possible flooding. While these issues are often dealt with at the development application stage when a detailed plan comes forward to council, understandably people are concerned and do not want any inappropriate development which will be of a lesser standard than where they live now or which may negatively impact them.

As part of the state interest checks in this process, I am pleased that the state government has agreed to provide scrutiny of the council's flood model to ensure rigorous and independent assessment. This is important not just for this site but anywhere in the catchment as flood modelling is complex and requires great care and technical rigour.

People have a right to know that any approval of future developments on the coast protect their interests and will not cause a worsening of flooding impacts on their properties or a perception of a worsening of flooding impacts. I remember walking through the floodwaters in the 1990s, which particularly impacted the Pacific Paradise community, and talking with local residents who had been affected. As a result, I fought hard to help get improved flood mitigation works such as bunding around Pacific Paradise and improved major drains which have greatly assisted the overland flow issues in this area.

As part of this drainage plan, the last Twin Waters development also undertook significant extension of the drains and canals which has been a major improvement. It is vital that these improvements are not undone and in fact that there be further works to improve localised flooding issues in some of the older communities where there have been issues with different fill levels between individual properties.

I want to keep the Sunshine Coast beautiful and protect our precious natural environment with a balanced and sustainable approach to development. I welcome the review of the council's flood modelling. These matters are complex and require technical expertise which individuals in the community are not able to provide. It is important that people are empowered with accurate information so that they are best placed to ensure that in upholding the town plan and upholding their local community they get the best outcome.