



Speech By  
**Rob Molhoek**


**MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT**

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## **PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

### **Southport Electorate**

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (2.43 pm): I rise to talk about just how Southport is thriving. Investment over the past five years has been absolutely stellar. Much of this has come off the back of the priority development area declarations that were made under the LNP over the Southport CBD—in particular, the Parklands area adjacent to Griffith University. These declarations have propelled growth and investment confidence, but there is still so much more that needs to be done.

Our local schools are absolutely at quota in terms of capacity. There are some 18 schools within the current electorate. I am told by many of the principals that most of these schools are either at or over quota. When you consider that next year—once the Commonwealth Games has come and gone and the village is available for people to move into and reside in the precinct—there will be 5,000 to 10,000 additional people living in the area, there will be additional pressure and growth demand put on our schools.

There is a desperate need for an overpass off Smith Street, from west to east, to provide direct access into the industrial and residential estates in Molendinar and for some formal overpass from Molendinar to the new Parkwood light rail station.

There are many challenges within Southport. With growth always comes great challenges. We need to see a continued commitment from government in terms of road upgrades. I particularly mention Southport-Nerang Road between Kumbari Avenue and the eastern end of Queen Street. This section of road has been earmarked for upgrade for many years now. In fact, there are original plans and corridors set aside going back some 10 or 20 years. This road corridor is rapidly becoming a priority. I raise it in the House today simply to put it on the public record that I will begin fighting for this next major upgrade within the Southport electorate.

There is also a significant need for improvements at the intersection of Edmund Rice Drive and Southport-Nerang Road. It provides access to a number of schools, retirement villages, a large residential estate at the back of Griffith University and Griffith University itself.

While I am pleased that the light rail connection will be made through to Helensvale and there is a new massive park-and-ride at the bottom of Napper Road adjacent to the new Parkwood station, I also look forward to the day when we see a heavy rail station adjoin this vital connection at Parkwood to improve access in and out of the suburb and to provide greater access for not just those people living within Parkwood but also those on the west of the highway, in Gaven and Pacific Pines.