




Speech By
Rob Molhoek

MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Southport, Proposed Casino Development

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (2.38 pm): I rise to speak in this debate of Private Members' Statements about the proposed casino development in Southport. Recently the Mayor of the Gold Coast, Tom Tate, announced to the media that he thought that the Southport parklands, Carey Park, the tennis club and the bowls club on the Southport foreshore area of the Broadwater would make an ideal location for a casino and tourism development.

I want to place on the public record my concern about this, because Southport is not the location for another casino on the Gold Coast. Nor is the use of public land like the iconic Carey Park, resuming the Southport Bowls Club—a club that has been there for over 100 years—or taking away the Queens Park Tennis Centre—the home of champions and one of the oldest tennis centres in Queensland—the appropriate location to be proposing a casino development in Southport. I can inform the House that there were some 200-300 people who turned up at the initial protest rally on 2 September. Along with those people was well-known Southport councillor Dawn Crichlow, who spoke very strongly against the development, supported by other council colleagues William Owen-Jones, Glenn Tozer and Councillor Daphne McDonald from the southern end of the Gold Coast. The message that day was very clear: Southport is not the right place for a casino on the Gold Coast. I have gone on the public record a number of times to suggest that the more appropriate location for a casino—if there is to be another casino on the Gold Coast—would be on the Glitter Strip somewhere between Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach.

The Southport Liquor Accord includes all of the publicans and licensed club owners within Southport. There are a number of very significant sporting clubs and community clubs on the Gold Coast. The CSi Club in Southport, which is currently undergoing a significant renovation; the Southport RSL and general manager Paul Burton, who heads the liquor accord; the Southport Sharks, one of the biggest clubs in Queensland; the Musgrave Hills Bowls Club; the Southport Yacht Club; and the Main Beach Surf Lifesaving Club have all expressed concern about this proposed development. All of them are concerned about the impact that a casino in Southport would have on their various community organisations. In the strongest possible terms I want to place on the public record my concern and my absolute objection to this casino being developed in Southport.

Southport has been earmarked by previous state governments—including the LNP government—and council as the centre for knowledge, business and health, and that is what Southport needs to be. It is the CBD of the Gold Coast and we need to continue promoting it as the centre for business.