



Speech By  
**Rob Molhoek**


**MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT**

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Record of Proceedings, 19 September 2018

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Carey Park**

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (7.19 pm): I rise today to speak about the very concerning response from the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games this morning during question time when she refused to rule out Carey Park in front of Australia Fair as Labor's favoured site for a global tourism hub and a second casino on the Gold Coast.

I really do not understand Labor's desire to keep selling off public land. True to form, the member for Cooper dressed up her response with promises of community consultation but gave no commitment to honour the previous resolutions of the Gold Coast City Council or the wishes of the Southport community. Let us hope the minister does not treat the people of Southport as she did the people of Cairns by deliberately waiting to run consultation during the Christmas summer holidays of 2017 when everyone was away on leave.

I am putting on the public record very clearly now that I do not believe that the Southport CBD, especially Carey Park, is an appropriate or responsible location for a casino or, for that matter, a global tourism hub. Carey Park provides important recreational space and car parking for our growing CBD and the Broadwater Parklands events precinct. Southport does not need a casino at Carey Park. The impact would be devastating for our local clubs and community. Local clubs, Club CSI, formally known as the Workers' Club, and Southport Sharks have recently invested millions and millions of dollars upgrading their facilities. Southport RSL, after many years of struggle, is finally thriving and I cannot even begin to imagine the negative impact a casino in Southport would have on Chinatown and some of the smaller licensed venues like Not Tonight and the new Mr P.P.'s rooftop bar in the surrounding area.

Labor clearly does not understand the Gold Coast. Our city's tourism legacy has been built on the back of Surfers Paradise and what so many of us refer to as the glitter strip between Surfers and Broadbeach. It is counterintuitive to develop new tourism infrastructure away from Surfers. Frankly, I believe there should be a PDA over Surfers Paradise to fast-track new development and keep the glitter strip shining well into the future. The Southport PDA, declared by the previous deputy premier of Queensland, Jeff Seeney, has been an outstanding success. Southport is now recognised in our city plan as the official CBD of the Gold Coast, a centre of excellence for health, knowledge and business.

Mayor Tom Tate's recent announcement to redevelop two council owned sites in Southport for council and state government offices is a cracker. I also support his call for a permanent Supreme Court presence in Southport. We are the second-biggest city in Queensland and we should have our own Supreme Court. It gives us the prestige that we rightly deserve as the second-largest city in Queensland.