



Speech By  
**Rob Molhoek**


**MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Gold Coast, Casino Proposal

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (7.24 pm): I rise today to speak about a very concerning proposal for the Gold Coast which has sparked outrage in my electorate of Southport. This is the proposal to build a second casino on public land at Southport's Carey Park.

Last Thursday over 250 residents, business leaders, councillors and many staff and members of local community clubs gathered for a community rally in the park to voice their concerns and opposition to this state government's proposal. I was very disappointed that on this occasion I was unable to join them, but I had an unexpected family emergency to deal with.

This week a petition against a second Gold Coast casino was tabled with over 9,000 signatures. The support for this petition has further highlighted for me the strong community sentiment against such a proposal. This was also made clear during the community consultation and subsequent declaration of Southport's priority development area some years ago.

The Southport PDA declaration was all about establishing Southport as the official CBD of Gold Coast, boasting a world-class health and knowledge precinct. There was no intent for Southport to become a secondary adult entertainment precinct and definitely never any intent for Southport to be home to a second casino.

Government data shows that the Gold Coast's 5,611 poker machines, excluding those at the Star Casino Gold Coast, raked in an average of \$38,677 every hour during the month of December. We know that Australians lose around \$14 billion every year to pokies and we know that gambling feeds crime, homelessness, family breakdown, suicide and bankruptcy. We really do not need anymore of this on the Gold Coast. It is the Gold Coast's most vulnerable and those who can least afford it who are playing these machines.

According to Clubs Queensland, a second casino would have an impact on over 300 community clubs in the south-east corner, representing some 1.6 million members and over 10,000 jobs. Our local clubs like the Southport RSL provide funding and vital assistance for veterans and our other clubs which support lifesaving, local sporting groups and a whole range of broader needs across the community.

We have enough gaming destinations on the Gold Coast. I stand here tonight and say that I am a little surprised at the Premier's response this morning when she so quickly ducked a question about proposed locations for a second casino and global tourism hub. It was the state government that commissioned PricewaterhouseCoopers to prepare the secret report presented to council behind closed doors. I simply ask the Premier: what is the future of Carey Park, Southport?

*(Time expired)*