




Speech By
Rob Molhoek

MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT

Record of Proceedings, 4 April 2019

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Gold Coast, Casino Proposal

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (2.00 pm): I rise to speak again about the ongoing situation with Carey Park in my electorate of Southport. At the outset, I would like to again express my frustration with the members opposite—in particular, the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games, who still will not rule out the site or provide any clarity on the proposed mega casino.

What I would really like some clarity on is exactly how big this global tourism hub and mega casino is going to be? Will it be five hectares and take in all of Carey Park? Will it be 12 hectares or greater taking up Carey Park, the local tennis club, bowls club and croquet club or is it likely to be 20 to 30 hectares taking up Carey Park, the local tennis club, bowls club, croquet club and most or all of the Broadwater Parklands? I table maps outlining the potential sizes of this land grab.

Tabled paper: Bundle of maps depicting Kerry Park, Southport electorate [546](#).

Tabled paper: Map, undated, titled 'Number of approved electronic gaming machines (EGMs), by location, Gold Coast and Tweed Shire local government areas' [547](#).

I simply ask: when will the minister come clean? I ask because if we compare this project to other casino based tourism hubs it is reasonable to expect that this mega casino facility would actually take up much more space than just Carey Park, demolishing important local sporting clubs as well as having devastating effects on local businesses.

Take the Mandalay Bay Casino in Las Vegas as an example. It boasts a casino, hotel, aquarium, convention centre, events centre and an extensive entertainment precinct. The Mandalay Bay Casino is built on a 30-hectare site. That is Carey Park, the local tennis club, bowls club, croquet club and most of the Broadwater Parklands gone from the community and locked up for a development the people of Southport do not want or need.

What the people of Southport do want are their local clubs: a bowls club which hosts international teams and where retirees are keeping active and catching up with their friends; a tennis club where we are training our young greats and making them our future tennis stars; local clubs that care about their members and their wellbeing, like the Southport RSL, and not just looking at them like a bag of cash.

I have also tabled a 'heat map' of approved poker machines on the Gold Coast. This map highlights the areas that have the highest number of pokies and let me tell you, Mr Deputy Speaker, the Southport area is red hot. There are 5,950 approved pokies in the Gold Coast City Council area with 1.030 of these in Southport alone. Quite frankly, I just do not think we need any more.

What I think is most concerning—and I have spoken about this before—is that this red area, where the minister's proposed land grab for a mega casino is located, is also where some of the Gold Coast's most disadvantaged are located.

(Time expired)