



Speech By  
**Rob Molhoek**


**MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT**

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Record of Proceedings, 30 March 2022

## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Common Ground**

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (6.23 pm): I rise this evening to tell the House about the establishment of Common Ground on the Gold Coast. Those who keep up to the date with the Register of Members' Interests will have seen that I recently updated mine to include directorship of Common Ground Gold Coast, a company which has been set up under the umbrella of Common Ground Queensland.

For those members who are not aware, Common Ground's vision is to end homelessness one person at a time in the communities in which they operate, under their philosophy of supported housing. I have been an advocate of this model of supported housing since visiting with Common Ground's founder, Rosanne Haggerty, at their site at Times Square, New York in 2008. I would encourage all members to do further research into the Common Ground model of care.

Our goal is to replicate what Common Ground Queensland has achieved in South Brisbane for the Gold Coast. In partnership with directors from the Queensland board, we hope to secure the land and funds for our first project of 200 dwellings at a single site, with supports and services suited to address long-term homelessness and disadvantage.

The Gold Coast foundation board will be made up of representatives from Common Ground Queensland—Peter Pearce, Joelle Ogilvie and Sonya Keep—and foundation members of the original working group established to explore options for the Gold Coast—architect Barry Lee, Tony Cosser, Sheila Ponting, Mat Jutsum and Di Kozij. I also want to make special mention of Jackson Hills, who has been a driving force in pulling this project and team together. Jackson has kept us focused, organised and on task, and I am so pleased that he will continue his voluntary work with us as secretary of Common Ground Gold Coast.

Common Ground is a groundbreaking model of care. It provides long-term supported accommodation to individuals experiencing homelessness with complex and chronic illnesses. The Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union, in addressing the Health and Environment Committee earlier this year, spoke at length about the value of nurse-led models of community health care and praised the work and collaboration of Micah Projects and Common Ground Brisbane.

We need Common Ground on the Gold Coast. We have identified the ideal site and have written to the Premier asking that part of this site be set aside for Common Ground in the future. We are working on our business case. The capital cost will be upwards of \$50 million, but the whole-of-life benefits and cost savings make it more than worthwhile. My call to this House is to get behind Common Ground Gold Coast. It is a fantastic model of care. I believe in it, and I believe that once it has been established on the Gold Coast we need to further explore this model of care being established in every major population centre around the state of Queensland.

In closing, I would like to add my comments and congratulations to those of the member of Coomera in respect of Assistant Commissioner Brian Wilkins and his 44 years of service. I had the privilege of attending high school with Brian. We were in the first cohort at Keebra Park.