



Speech By  
**Fiona Simpson**


**MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE**

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Record of Proceedings, 26 October 2023

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Mooloolaba Beach, Seawall**

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (2.12 pm): This week there has been community uproar over Sunshine Coast Council's proposed seawall and works which will interfere with the iconic Mooloolaba Beach. This is serious. The community does not want Mooloolaba Beach to become a concrete beach. There are grave concerns about: the impact upon the beach, with the proposed concrete tiered seawall extending into the beach area only metres from the water; safety during construction, with barriers extending to the waterline preventing surf-lifesavers from being able to safely patrol the beach where people swim during construction; the closure of most of the beach between the Loo with a View back to the northern steps which will also impact significantly upon the economic viability of many businesses in Mooloolaba; and the removal of car parking.

This design and works must be put on hold until environmental and economic impacts are addressed in full and the right design is taken into account with proper consultation. The consultation that council did has been criticised for very valid reasons, because some stakeholders were told one thing and others told a completely different thing about the design, how far it extended, how close it would go to the water and what that design would do. In fact, some stakeholders were told, 'Oh, no, the design hasn't been completed,' while others were told, 'Yes, it has been completed.' Now we see that apparently the state government, through the state development agency, has already signed off. They are the big questions. Where is the design? What has this process actually been?

The state government and the Sunshine Coast Council have only one chance to get this right. Environmental groups, community groups, the business community and the surf-lifesaving club of Mooloolaba are all saying, 'Please put this on hold. Get the design right.' They are most concerned that this will have a negative impact upon one of our most iconic and beautiful beaches. We have only one chance to get this right, and the way this has been done is wrong. I call on the council not to issue tenders to do this work at this time but to get the plan right. I implore the state government to not approve this. It is an absolutely abhorrent suggestion to put concrete into the area in the way they are talking about.

As we all know, sand comes and goes. With a tiered seawall that reaches almost to the water's edge, when the sand goes—once people would have been walking in a natural environment—people could find themselves walking on concrete. That is not acceptable. Get it right, talk to the community and be careful with this very delicate area. The Sunshine Coast and I love this beach. We are highly concerned. These works need to be right but they are not currently. There must be a stop put to this so we can protect this precious, iconic area.