




Speech By
Rob Molhoek

MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT

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ADJOURNMENT

Southport Chamber of Commerce

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (6.49 pm): At the last Southport Chamber of Commerce AGM outgoing president Ariana Margetts delivered her final report. The Southport chamber has been a beacon of strength and vision for over 110 years, and under her leadership it has continued to thrive. Reflecting on the rich history of the chamber, it is remarkable how their objectives have not changed since the 1935 constitution. Some of these founding principles are: discuss and deal with any subjects affecting the best interests of the town and surrounding districts; watch over and protect the general interests of trade, commerce and civil rights; and assist in the development of industries. These objectives are just as relevant today as they were almost a century ago. The commitment to these goals is part of why the chamber maintains its importance to our community.

Ariana's leadership as president has been instrumental in navigating the chamber through a period of significant growth and change. She was the first female and youngest president in the chamber's history. Her tenure has been marked by a number of significant achievements, including the digital transformation of the chamber's operations to a substantial growth in membership from 53 members at the start of the 2020 financial year to 390 members at the last AGM. Ariana's impact has been significant.

The Southport Chamber of Commerce is one of the longest standing chambers of commerce in Queensland and the Gold Coast. It has played a crucial role in the development of Southport, which is now home to 20 per cent of all employment on the Gold Coast. The Health and Knowledge Precinct has become a hub of innovation and growth, and the chamber's advocacy has been key to this development. I would like to acknowledge the contribution of some key members who have been instrumental in the chamber's success: Trevor Bruger, who has taken over as president, and Ariana, who is continuing on as vice-president. They have also appointed Sidnee Jennings and Doug Garvie as vice presidents, secretary Sam Rees and treasurer Allan Godbee, as well as board members Katie Bond, Lavinia Rampino and Graeme Isaacson. Thank you to everyone who keeps that chamber running.

I am proud of the Southport Chamber of Commerce and the vital role it plays in our community. It is essential that the chamber maintain its independence and continues being the engine room of the Gold Coast. The chamber's success is a testament to the hard work and dedication of its members, and I look forward to seeing it continue to thrive in the years to come.