




Speech By
Rob Molhoek

MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT

Record of Proceedings, 26 March 2026

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Southport CBD

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (2.22 pm): For some time now I have been calling for a stronger approach to deal with drugs, antisocial behaviour, drunkenness and the challenges we are seeing on the streets of Southport. As a result of Labor's soft-on-crime laws we have seen a significant impact on our CBD and the local community. This is not just about perception. It is the lived reality for people who work, study and run businesses there every day. Southport is the engine room of the Gold Coast. It is home to our courts, professional services, many international colleges, world-class medical facilities and a diverse mix of cafes, restaurants and small businesses. In fact, Southport CBD and the postcode 4215 account for almost 20 per cent of all employment in our city.

It feels like we are at a crossroads. We need to decide what kind of CBD we want Southport to be because the current trajectory is not good enough. I want people to feel safe and I want business owners to have confidence that if they invest in our CBD they will succeed. Since the last sitting week Team Southport has been out on the ground speaking directly with the community. We have visited more than 200 businesses in our CBD, many of the retailers in Australia Fair Shopping Centre, a number of medical facilities around the CBD area, schools and the international colleges, encouraging them to make submissions to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee on the legislation that is before that committee.

We have supported this with strong social media and a direct mail campaign. I am pleased to tell the House that we have had almost 200 submissions from the Southport community calling for a stronger approach on dealing with antisocial behaviour in the CBD.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to anticipation of debate. This matter is clearly outlined on the *Notice Paper*. For the member to be extolling the virtues of the particular approach is clearly anticipation. His comments are out of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Thank you, Manager of Opposition Business. I will take some advice. I have been paying close attention and I understood the member was talking about his community and some of the efforts there, but please ensure, member, that you do not anticipate debate in your contribution.

Mr MOLHOEK: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. This issue of antisocial behaviour has been one of the five priorities—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The same point of order?

Mr de BRENNI: I draw to your attention that the member has explicitly outlined the title of the bill that is on the *Notice Paper* and then has extolled the virtues of specific reforms in there and continued

to talk about that in the context of his community. I understand broad context, but he cannot continue down this path after drawing to the attention of the House that that is the purpose of his speech.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Manager of Opposition Business.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to the first point of order of the Manager of Opposition Business. There was some direction given to the member for Southport in relation to compliance with your ruling in relation to anticipating debate. He was barely into a further contribution of a few seconds—three words in—and I submit to you that he be permitted to continue.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I was going to make a ruling very similar to what you have just outlined. Again, member for Southport, some context is fine, but please do not anticipate debate.

Mr MOLHOEK: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I am sure all members in the House would understand that as the member for Southport I have spoken fondly about my electorate on many occasions. I was actually born in Southport, grew up in Southport, raised my family in Southport and—

Mr Stevens: Will be buried in Southport too!

Mr MOLHOEK: I take the interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. I hope that one day, way off in the distant future—

Mr Stevens: Have you got a plot at the Southport cemetery?

Mr MOLHOEK: No, I have not pre-purchased a plot. I have told my boys I want my ashes sprinkled in the Broadwater, along with my parents'. I digress, but thank you for that interjection. During the course of the last few weeks talking to local retailers there has been some confusion in the reporting about issues in respect of homelessness and I simply wanted to state that this is not just about dealing with homelessness in the electorate, but rather dealing with antisocial behaviour more broadly.