

Maroochydore | Electorate News

E-NEWSLETTER

Fiona Simpson MP
MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE



Working together for the Coast

I'm passionate about the Sunshine Coast and making sure it continues to become an even greater place to work and live.

Congratulations to our new Federal Representatives - Ted O'Brien MP, Member for Fairfax and Andrew Wallace MP, Member for Fisher.

I look forward to working together with them and the rest of our Sunshine Coast team as we continue to deliver for our region.

Already we have seen great announcements for the Bruce Highway and the Sunshine Coast Airport and we will continue to lobby for funding for the much-needed infrastructure for our growing region.



July 2016

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Long awaited boat ramp to open soon

North shore boaties will be delighted that work is ahead of schedule at the long-awaited boat ramp and car park upgrade in Nojoor Road. Work was due to be completed in late September but it is now expected to open at the end of July.

While in Government, I successfully secured \$620,000 funding for the dual-lane boat ramp and floating walkways for delivery this financial year.

Council acquired the additional land and provided funds to build the car park at this popular spot for boat owners.

The upgrade will provide 45 car trailer unit parking spaces and 10 car parking spaces.

Power hikes continue to pinch

I'm getting a lot of feedback from people concerned over rising power costs. I'll continue to advocate for a fairer go and change in policies which are causing this.

Unfortunately household budgets will continue to feel the squeeze from higher electricity bills thanks to the Palaszczuk Labor Government policies to shift government debt on to the power companies and also demand higher returns from them - power consumers are paying for that.

Labor's renewable energy policy alone will cost over \$10.8 billion to implement, according to the independent Productivity Commission.

This is an issue that won't go away until there are fairer, more sustainable prices where the poor spending decisions aren't forced on to power consumers.

Speed limit reduction a win for local community

I am celebrating news of a win for road safety along a busy section of the Yandina-Coolum Road with members of the Yandina Creek and Coolum Beach Christian College community.

In response to concerns raised by the local community, I have been campaigning to have speed limit reduced from 100km/h to 80 km/h on the section between the Toolborough Road and Quanda Road intersections.

[READ MORE:](#)

Point Arkwright conservation area expands

I am celebrating a terrific win with the transfer of the old Point Arkwright Police reserve into the neighbouring Yinneburra conservation reserve.

It's been great to work with community on the campaign to have the block permanently protected.

This heavily vegetated block on the corner of Dewar and David Low Way was not suitable for a police station and is no longer needed, thanks to the new emergency services precinct on the South Coolum Road, Coolum.

The sloping block was gazetted for police purposes decades before most of the housing development in the area occurred, so it is now part of the remnant vegetation in the area and it's important to preserve it.



Out and about in the Maroochydore Electorate



Pictured above: God Bless Rotary III & all who sail in her. Naming latest Mooloolaba Volunteer Coastguard boat at the 40th Anniversary celebrations



Pictured above: I love what is happening at Mooloolaba State School with great ways to engage students in learning & life. Meet the latest Mooloolaba Kid, Fleur the dog with Chappy Linda & Principal John Turner.



Pictured above: Celebrating NAIDOC Day at Cotton Tree Park with Wendy of NCACCH who do a terrific job



Pictured above: Opening the Sunshine Coast ISKA Martial Arts Tournament at Maroochydore

Funding win for local sports and community groups

Local sports and community groups have received a welcome funding boost through a \$150,000 share of Gambling Community Benefit Fund grants. The successful grant recipients in my electorate are:

- Coolum Beach Junior Australian Football Club - \$27,000 to upgrade facilities and equipment;
- Coolum Beach Surf Life Saving Club - \$18,018 to purchase a rescue boat a motor;
- Maroochy North Shore Lions - \$2,113 to purchase equipment;
- Mooloolaba Primary P&C Assoc - \$30,454 to upgrade facilities;
- Mudjimba Beach Boardriders Club - \$8,479 to purchase equipment and attend training;
- Sunshine Coast Family Contact Centre Assoc - \$18,451 to install solar system and upgrade lighting;
- Sunshine Coast Yacht Club Inc - \$35,000 to purchase a rescue boat;
- Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Assoc - \$9,600 to purchase a direction finder system.

Our community benefits from the amazing efforts of our hard working non-profit organisations who provide vital services to local community.

I encourage all local groups, however big or small, to apply for the next round of funding and make the most of this wonderful opportunity.

The next funding round closes 31 August 2016.

For more information go to:

<http://www.justice.qld.gov.au/corporate/sponsorships-and-grants/grants/community-benefit-funding-programs>

\$4 million funding boost for local sports facilities

Sunshine Coast Sports Clubs and the Sunshine Coast Council will share almost \$4 million in funding from the State Government's Get Playing Plus program to upgrade local sporting facilities.

The University of the Sunshine Coast Spartans Swim Club will receive almost \$1.4 million towards the \$4.2 million construction of a new 25 metre pool, plunge pools and other facilities. Gymnastics facilities in Buderim and Noosa will receive just over \$1 million to help with renovation and extension works.

Council will receive just over \$800,000 towards the upgrade of netball courts at the Maroochydore Multi Sports Complex and almost \$350,000 to help pay for the overhaul of the Alex Skate and BMX park. Just over \$480,000 will go towards the upgrade of the Sunshine Coast Stadium.

Funding boost for Coast waterways

The Sunshine Coast has received a \$600,000 State Government funding boost to help keep our waterways clean and healthy. The funding will allow SEQ Catchments to continue to work with local community groups, Council and landowners to manage pest and weed species, implement sustainable land management practices and restore native vegetation in targeted waterways in the region including the Noosa River, Maroochy River, North Maroochy, Mooloolah River, Mooloolah Valley and the Blackall Range.

Container Deposit Scheme

The LNP has announced a policy addressing one of Queensland's major environmental issues - cans and bottles littering land and waterways and impacting land fill.

The LNP's container deposit scheme (CDS) will see Queensland consumers, businesses and charities refunded 10 cents for aluminium, glass and plastic drink containers returned for recycling.

It will give local community groups the opportunity to cash in on community clean-up events for fundraising - which is a win for our environment and a win for the community too.

This is a great decision to help clean-up Queensland and better protect our environment.

Our plan to get Queensland working

I'm pleased to announce the LNP's jobs policy.

The LNP's plan will provide local businesses with a \$5,000 incentive to take on a new apprentice and will give them a \$500 voucher towards new tools upon completion of their training.

Our plan also provides a job-start incentive grant of \$4,000 ...over 12 months to help small businesses with recruitment and start-up costs of employing young Queenslanders who are unemployed and not in full-time education or training.

Under an LNP State Government, employers will also receive an incentive to employ and retain young Queenslanders through reduced WorkCover costs after 12 months of continuous employment.

This will help the many young people on the Sunshine Coast who are struggling to find work.

Hot showers and a hot meal for the homeless

Well done to the Maroochy Neighbourhood Centre, the Mooloolaba Lions Club and Australian Portable Toilets for working together on a fantastic community initiative to provide mobile hot showers for those who don't have a place to call home.

The hot showers will complement the variety of services already provided by the Centre to support those in need.

The Orange Sky team provide laundry services and an amazing team of volunteers at the Centre put together a delicious 3-course meal every Tuesday and Thursday evening.

For more information about how you can get involved, please call Michael on 07 5443 6696 or email manager@maroochyinc.org.au.

Free Tax Help

If you need help lodging your tax return, you may be eligible for the FREE Tax Help program available at the Maroochy Neighbourhood Centre.

If your income is around \$50,000 or less for the income year and you are lodging a simple personal tax return (i.e. you did not work as a contractor, run a business, own an investment property, etc.), contact the Maroochy Neighbourhood Centre to book an appointment on 5443 6696.

Tax Help will be operating from 21 July to 27 October between 9am - 3pm.

Shout out to local businesses:

The Sunshine Coast has a very strong small business community and one that is passionate about ensuring that we can invest in the future of our youth and provide jobs in our area. Let's celebrate what's great about our local businesses.

- Congratulations to [The Silva Spoon](#) in Cotton Tree for taking out the top honour in the Australian tea industry's Golden Leaf Awards for the best tea house in Queensland. Well done to Gina Da Silva and the team for all their fantastic work.
- Big shout out to Manfred Lorber and the staff at [Hogsbreath Cafe Mooloaba](#) for fulfilling Joel Brown's dream of working at his favourite restaurant. This small step of creating a socially-inclusive workplace has given Joel such a sense of pride, acceptance and normality.
- Congratulations to **The Bradman River House** and owners Denis & Kate Poynton who celebrated their first birthday recently. It's come a long way since it was the Cod Hole fish and chip shop. My folks and I had a great afternoon tea here recently with terrific coffee.
- Dynamic leaders in the **Sunshine Coast food industry and agribusiness** are working together to share knowledge and collaborate with other locals to increase their success.

Like-minded local business owners are invited to join them for a half-day workshop on "Innovation and Collaboration" to be held at the Imperial Hotel Eumundi on **Tuesday 26th July from 6.45am to 12 noon**. Speakers include business legends Acland Brierty from Spirit House, Helen Lewis from Picots Farm and Kim McCosker of 4-Ingredients.

Let me know about any local business you believe deserves to be recognized for initiative and achievement.

LNP plan to tackle war on ice addiction

We have announced our five-point action plan to work in tandem with the Federal Government's National Ice Action Plan to help eradicate the drug ice from our streets.

1. Dob in a dealer: Cash incentives to encourage the community to report information to Crime Stoppers.
2. Keeping bikie clubhouses closed.
3. More drug addiction services in regional and remote areas as well as targeted support through Queensland Health.
4. Better law enforcement cooperation between State and Commonwealth agencies.
5. Increased prevention and community awareness programs aimed at high-risk demographics.

Census 2016 goes digital

For the first time in Australia, you will be able to complete the Census online on August 9 rather than completing a paper form.

Paper forms will still be available for those who are unable to access the internet or who prefer to fill out a paper form, but you will need to follow the instructions provided to request this.

From August 1, most households will receive a letter addressed "To the Resident" with instructions on how to complete the Census online, as well as directions on how to order a paper form.

The letter will include a unique Census Login number for each household - so it's important not to lose this. For more information please go to www.census.abs.gov.au or call 1300 214 531.

Remember the Census is compulsory.

More SES Volunteers needed

Seeing first-hand the devastating impact of the recent storm event on residents in Mooloolaba has made me appreciate even more the invaluable work done by our dedicated SES Volunteers who are there to give emergency assistance when disaster strikes.

Coolum Beach SES is in urgent need of more volunteers to get involved and do their bit to support our community. If you are interested in finding out what's involved, why not stop by the SES shed on the corner of Elizabeth and Sunrise Avenue, Coolum Beach on a training night. To register your interest go to www.emergency.qld.gov.au/ses/ or phone 5444 5202.

Nominate now for Regional Achievement and Community Awards

Now's your chance to nominate an individual, business or group who is passionate about making Queensland a better place to live.

[READ MORE:](#)

Nominate now for Australian of the Year Awards

Now is the time to nominate a local hero or admirable Australian who you would like to see recognised on Australia Day 2017 for the outstanding contribution they have made.

[READ MORE:](#)



Fiona Simpson MP
Member for Maroochydore

P 07 5406 7100 E maroochydore@parliament.qld.gov.au W fionasimpson.com.au



The image is a promotional banner for Fiona Simpson, an Australian Member of Parliament. On the left is a portrait of Fiona Simpson, a woman with short brown hair wearing a red jacket. To her right, the text 'Fiona Simpson MP' is displayed in white on a blue background, with 'Member for Maroochydore' below it in white on a yellow background. At the bottom, contact information is provided: 'P 07 5406 7100 E maroochydore@parliament.qld.gov.au W fionasimpson.com.au'. On the far right is the Queensland Parliament logo, which features a red cross on a white background within a circular border containing the text 'QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENT'.