

Maroochydore | Electorate News

E-NEWSLETTER

Fiona Simpson MP

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE



August 2014

We live in a great state, and we want to provide all Queenslanders with great opportunity. As your local State Member of Parliament, I will continue to stand up for the people of the Sunshine Coast and work hard to advocate for my constituents to receive improved services.

As a result, Sunshine Coast residents are receiving quicker and better access to our free public hospital services; there are more local intensive care paramedics delivering life-saving care to people's doors; dental waiting lists are down and more people needing social housing have found a home.

One of the best news stories though is the reduction in crime rates which is making it safer to live on our beautiful Sunshine Coast. This is thanks to tougher laws for the criminals and more police (an extra 27 here locally) which is something I have lobbied successfully for.

There is much still to be done, but we are already seeing real results locally.

Please do not hesitate to contact me to share what is important to you - or better still, give me a call and make a time so we can catch up for a cuppa.

Kind regards

Fiona

Fiona Simpson MP
Member for Maroochydore

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LNP Breakfast with Hon David Crisafulli - Wednesday 20th August

Maroochydore LNP Branch have invited State Minister for Local Government to speak at their August breakfast.

Venue: Maroochy Surf Club, 34-36 Alexandra Parade,

Maroochydore

Time: 6.30am for 7am start

Cost: \$40.00

Contact: Lauris Bryant at Top Spot Motel on 5443 1245

Email: admin@topspotmotel.com.au

[Click here](#) to download booking form

Win for local conservation on Maroochy North Shore

It's great to celebrate a win together with local environmental groups and community members. I'm delighted to announce that an extra 15 hectares of land will be protected thanks to a state government decision to incorporate it into the Maroochy River Regional Park at Twin Waters.

I have been lobbying for this land to be protected as it forms an important "missing link" between the northern and southern sections of this important conservation area. The additional land, which was formerly leased by the Novotel Twin Waters Resort, provides an opportunity to both protect high-value vegetation and restore other areas as well as providing a natural corridor for fauna and flora.

The Novotel Twin Waters resort will retain approximately seven hectares of mainly cleared land for car parks and recreation activities, but the remainder will be maintained appropriately and revegetated with native plants.

I am keen to work with the Department of National Parks and local community groups to see this area protected and improved. I acknowledge the fantastic work of Mudjimba Bush Care Group and the Coolum and North Shore Coast Care Group who remove weeds and promote the growth of local native plants in the regional park.

Jobs return to the Coast

The latest ABS figures for June 2014 deliver encouraging news with the Sunshine Coast leading the way in growing new jobs and Queensland creating half of Australia's new jobs.

Congratulations to Sunshine Coast businesses who have created more jobs than any other region with 14,500 more people in work than 12 months ago.

Our local economy is benefitting from the millions of dollars being invested by the State Government for the construction of the Sunshine Coast Public University Hospital.

The local construction industry has also been given a boost of \$5 million in Great Start Grants which have helped more than 300 Sunshine Coast families to buy their first home and provided an injection of many millions of dollars into this sector.

Recent building approval figures released by the ABS show Sunshine Coast building approvals have increased 76.2% for the 12 months to May 2014, which is a very positive outlook.

Coast to host Ironman World Championships in 2016

In a terrific coup for Sunshine Coast sporting events, Mooloolaba will stage the first IRONMAN 70.3 World Championships to be held in the Southern Hemisphere in September 2016.

I was delighted to make this announcement on behalf of Minister Jann Stuckey, together with IRONMAN CEO Geoff Meyer and Sunshine Coast Councillor Jason OPray.

The world championship is the pinnacle event in the global IRONMAN 70.3 calendar and this will further strengthen the Sunshine Coast's reputation as one of the world's leading triathlon centers, following on from the annual



IRONMAN 70.3 Sunshine Coast and the iconic Mooloolaba and Noosa Triathlon Festivals.

Our region will benefit from more than 3000 international competitors and other visitors to the Sunshine Coast and will boost our popularity as a world class sporting and holiday destination.

Council urged to submit plans Sunshine Coast Arts, Convention & Entertainment centre

I welcome Council's identification of the importance of this regional facility in the Maroochydore CBD and the setting aside of land - but I am urging them to bring forward their roadmap to deliver it.

As a keen musician and patron of local theatre and choir groups, I believe it is vital that Council not leave its run too late but put together a comprehensive submission to seek funds from the proposed \$8.6 billion State "Strong Choices Investment Program".

There is a great opportunity for Council to put together a comprehensive roadmap and seek funding for a properly scoped, rigorously planned Arts, Convention & Entertainment Centre as a part of a vibrant future for the Maroochydore CBD and the whole of the Sunshine Coast.

This project is on Council land and will be owned by Council, but I am keen to work with them to deliver this and make it a high priority.

[READ MORE:](#)

State Government Grants forum

I was delighted to welcome representatives from local community groups to my grants forum in July.

State Government representatives from the Department of Sport and Recreation and the Department of Community Benefit Fund were on hand to provide information and answer questions.

Please contact my office if you would like an updated booklet about what Queensland Government grants are available.



Tendering for government business workshop

The Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning are holding a series of workshop to help local businesses maximise their chances of winning government work and tender for major projects.

The Sunshine Coast workshop will be held on Thursday 21st August 2014 and will focus on opportunities for tendering for government work projects for the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games in 2018.

The 3 hour workshop will be held at the Mike Ahern Centre, 12 First Avenue, Maroochydore from 8am - 11am. The cost is \$50 (incl. GST) per attendee.

For more information and to register your interest, please email sunshinecoast@dsdip.qld.gov.au or go to <http://www.dsdip.qld.gov.au/events/tendering-for-government-business-workshops.html>.

Caring for our Community Grants available to local community groups

State government funding is now available for small grants of up to \$5,000 to help fund essential items and equipment for not-for-profit groups.

This is a fantastic opportunity for local groups to improve their facilities and upgrade their resources. The grants can be used to help cover the cost of essential items like printers, computers, fridges or microwaves to shade sails, lawn mowers and sporting equipment.

Applications for these grants close on Friday 26 September 2014. For more information about Caring for our Community program or to apply for a grant visit www.communities.qld.gov.au.

Community Corners

Thank you to local residents who took the time to come and say G'day at my recent community corners in Maroochydore, Cotton Tree, Alexandra Headland and Mooloolaba.

It was lovely to get some encouraging feedback from Maroochydore residents Gary Still and his mother Nola Still who said they had noticed a difference in our area and they were pleased to see things being done.



Out and about meeting the locals at Community Corners:



Getting Young Queenslanders into jobs

Helping Sunshine Coast youth get the right training and then get a job is so important.

There are big changes in vocational education and training (VET) which aim to do just this with the \$615 million 2014/14 funding training in priority areas - where the jobs are. For information visit:
<http://www.training.qld.gov.au/resources/information/pdf/vet-investment-plan.pdf>

Under our new contestable approach to VET, both public and private providers are eligible to offer government subsidised training. This means that young people have more options to select the training provider that best suits their needs.

[READ MORE:](#)

Premier launches Queenslanders' 30 Year Vision

Taking time to think about the kind of Queensland we all want to create for future generations is worthwhile. That's why it is impressive that 80,000 Queenslanders took part in Australia's largest community engagement activity to help create the Queensland Plan which has just been launched.

It does have ambitious goals - particularly in lifting the State's educational standards - but that's what will help drive our state forward over the next three decades.

The economy, education and the regions were identified in the newly released Queensland Plan as the keys to a vibrant and prosperous state.

The Queensland Plan sets a road map for state growth and prosperity and reflects a range of community aspirations that would help unite business, industry, community and government activities right across the state.

While we won't always agree on how to achieve all our goals, it is important to keep the conversation going to find common ground and new ways to work together.

I look forward to working with the Sunshine Coast community to make our vision a reality.

To download a copy of The Queensland Plan visit www.qld.gov.au/queenslandplan.

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