



**Fiona Simpson MP**

Member for Maroochydore

*Standing up for the Sunshine Coast*

July 2013

## Queensland Plan Public Forum

You are invited to contribute your ideas to *The Queensland Plan*, a 30-year vision for our great state.

**When:** Friday 9th August  
**Time:** 1pm - 3pm  
**Where:** Mike Ahern Centre  
(Ground Floor Meeting Room),  
12 First Avenue, Maroochydore  
**RSVP:** By Wednesday 7th August

(Tel: 5443 7995 or Email:  
[Maroochydore@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:Maroochydore@parliament.qld.gov.au))

Residents can now also have their say on shaping the long-term future of the state through The Queensland Plan website.

Six questions, collaboratively developed with community members at the summit in Mackay, are now online for your ideas and feedback:

[Read more...](#)

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Fiona Simpson MP  
Member for Maroochydore  
Speaker of Queensland Parliament

## Community Morning Teas



Come along for a chat over a cuppa to share about issues that impact you and what you want to see happen in our local area.

Please let me know if you are interested in attending a local group or hosting a gathering. Contact my office for further information.

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## State funding boost for local community groups

I welcome news that nearly a quarter of a million dollars in grants has been allocated to 11 local community groups under the latest State Government funding rounds.

Millions of dollars have been provided across Queensland through the Gambling Community Benefit Fund and the Jupiters Casino Community Benefit Fund.

These not-for-profit organisations are worthy recipients who make a valuable contribution to the Sunshine Coast community.

[Read More...](#)

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## Health funding update

A \$45 million boost to health funding to tackle Sunshine Coast waiting lists is welcome news in the State Budget.

The funding will improve access to general, orthopaedic surgery, medicine, ear, nose and throat and gastroenterology services. I appreciate the big focus initially was on tackling emergency waiting times but this additional money to help these key services is good to see.



Health was one of the big items to receive significantly more funds in this year's State Budget with a 4.5% increase, bringing the overall State budget for health to \$12.5 billion.

[Read more...](#)

## In other budget news ...

\$1.9 million will be spent this year on a new building at Coolum State High School and an extra \$100 million in maintenance funding has been allocated for Queensland State schools to clear up the school maintenance backlog. This highly popular program has resulted in significant, locally-driven, locally-contracted school improvements.

Altogether the Sunshine Coast receives more than \$800m in capital outlays.

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## Maroochydore Road receives \$1million boost

An additional \$1 million in funding has been committed for further works on Maroochydore Road from the Sunshine Motorway east to Main Road to be completed in the 2013/14 financial year.

The project is being funded out of \$5 million allocated to rehabilitate high priority sections of Maroochydore Road. Work on this 500m section was identified as a high priority and will link the areas west of the Sunshine Motorway and east towards Maroochydore that have already had pavement works carried out.

[Read more...](#)

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## Help with electricity costs for low income households

The Government will double the Home Energy Emergency Assistance Scheme to \$10 million to help those most in need.

This scheme helps low income households with an emergency payment of up to \$720 per annum over a two year period. **For more information and to make an application, contact your energy retailer whose number appears on your energy account.**

Low income households who are experiencing difficulty paying for their energy needs may also be interested to learn about the Home Energy Saver Scheme (HESS).

[Read more...](#)



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## Safer Queensland Community Grants Program

Local community groups and not-for-profit organisations can now apply for one-off grants for programs that address road safety or crime related programs.

Suncorp Insurance and the Queensland Police Service (QPS) are joining forces to offer grants between \$1 000 and \$10 000 so that local communities can develop and implement road safety and crime prevention projects that improve road safety and help reduce crime and fear of crime in Queensland.

Interested groups can apply on-line before 31 July 2013 at [www.suncorp.com.au/saferqlld](http://www.suncorp.com.au/saferqlld).

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## Coast residents to keep scoring with Get in the Game

Families and sports clubs across Queensland will have the opportunity to *Get in the Game*, with the second round of funding for the State Government's grassroots initiative to open this month.

Local families and sports/recreation clubs can apply for *Get Started* from 15 July, followed by *Get Going* and *Get Playing* on 15 August.



*Get Started* gives children whose families might not otherwise be able to afford it, an opportunity to join a sport or recreation club. Eligible families can apply for vouchers worth up to \$150 to help pay the cost of sport or recreation membership and/or participation fees.

*Get Playing* provides grants of up to \$100,000 in funding to sport and recreation organisations for facility development.

*Get Going* provides grants of up to \$10,000 for items and activities to help clubs attract and retain club members.

[Read more...](#)

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## Funding win for Sunshine 60 and Better Group

Congratulations to the Sunshine 60 and Better Group on being awarded funding of \$216,167 per annum over approximately 18 months through the Seniors Participation and Support Program.

The group runs a variety of healthy ageing programs for Seniors at various locations on the Sunshine Coast including Coolum and Maroochydore such as computer lessons, scrapbooking, art and craft, Tai Chi, gentle exercise, excursions and many more fun programs.

For more information call 5443 7281 or go to the website



## Sunshine Coast received 19 additional police officers

The State Government is delivering on its election promise to provide an additional 1,100 police officers across the State over four years with a massive recruitment drive.

I am pleased that we have an additional 19 officers patrolling the beat on the Sunshine Coast since April 2012.

Our police officers have always done a fantastic job keeping Sunshine Coast residents safe and these additional officers will help them continue their outstanding work.

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## LNP gets tough on crime

The State Government is serious about taking a strong stance on crime and has already implemented a number of law and order reforms since taking office.

The Criminal Law (Two Strike Child Sex Offenders) Amendment Act 2012, which commenced in July 2012, provides a mandatory sentence of life imprisonment, with a minimum non-parole period of 20 years, for certain repeat child sexual offenders.

The Criminal Law Amendment Act 2012, which commenced in August 2012, toughens the sentences for the offence of murder and murder or serious assault of a police officer.

[Read more...](#)

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## Changes reduce red tape for community events and low risk venues

Recent changes to liquor and gaming laws will make it easier for community groups to hold fundraising and community events without the need to obtain liquor permits.

More than 20 amendments have been made that will reduce liquor and gaming red tape under the *Liquor and Gaming (Red Tape Reduction) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013*.

[Read more...](#)

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## Discount off-peak public transport fares to start 8.30am from January 2014.

The State Government has announced that off-peak cheaper fares will start half an hour earlier from January 2014 to enable more public transport users to benefit from the 20 per cent discount.

The 12-month trial will be a great incentive for more people to hop on the bus and travel outside of the core peak period.

The discounted fares are in addition to the State Government's election promise to half Labor's planned fare increases.

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## 2014 Australian of the Year Awards

Nominations are now open for the 2014 Australian of the Year Awards. Why not nominate a fellow Queenslander who is deserving of state and national recognition for their achievements.

Nominations for the following categories close on 2 August 2013:

Queensland Australian of the Year  
Queensland Senior Australian of the Year  
Queensland Young Australian of the Year  
Queensland Local Hero

Visit the website at [www.australianoftheyear.org.au](http://www.australianoftheyear.org.au) for further information.

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Contact me online through my facebook or [webpage](#)

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