



**January 2014**

## Welcome to 2014

I hope you have been able to unwind and spend time with family and friends during the holiday season.

In 2013 we saw some great achievements for the Maroochydore Electorate, and I'm looking forward to even more funding coming our way this year to improve infrastructure and services for our community. My key goals for 2014 will be to gain even more support in the areas of health, education, tourism and community services.

The local economy has received a major boost with the construction of the Sunshine Coast University Private Hospital and work starting on the Sunshine Coast Public University Hospital.

We've increased the health budget by \$1.28 billion and as a result we have seen improvements in health service delivery and waiting times. For example, in just 8 months the number of Queenslanders on the public dental waiting list has dropped from 62,500 to 13,722. For the Sunshine Coast region, the number has almost halved from 8,836 (Feb 2013) to 4,668 (Sept 2013).

Local waiting times for public hospital appointments are now benefitting from an agreement with Ramsay Health Care to provide a range of healthcare services for public patients at the newly opened Sunshine Coast University Private Hospital. Already more than 400 public patients have been referred to the private hospital to receive treatment free of charge. The equivalent of 110 beds at the private hospital from December 2013 to June 2018 are to be used for public healthcare services until our new Public University Hospital opens in 2016 with 450 beds.

We are focused on improving education outcomes for our children by increasing spending on education by \$707 million, delivering 724 new teachers and support staff as well as 80 independent schools to give local parents more say. Our local schools have benefitted from over a million dollars in funding to help clear maintenance back-logs using local contractors.

Local tourism operators are reporting a fantastic Summer holiday period which follows on from a bumper Spring season. Tourism is one of the Queensland economy's four pillars and is extremely important to the Sunshine Coast. The State Government is committed to doubling Queensland's annual overnight visitor expenditure to \$30 billion by 2020. Securing more international tourists to the Sunshine Coast is critical to growing local jobs.

### In this e-newsletter:

- [State funding boost for local community groups](#)
- [Calls for a tougher stance on drug and alcohol related violence](#)
- [Honour an inspirational Queensland woman](#)
- [The Queensland Plan: a 30 year vision for Queensland](#)
- [Get involved - Grants, Prizes, Plans and Reviews](#)
- [More State Government funding support to get kids into sport](#)
- [Out and about in the Electorate on Australia Day](#)



Building a better Sunshine Coast Airport and more local jobs has won State Government support with the transfer of Crown Land to Council at no cost to help move forward the proposed \$418.6 million project which is crucial to the economic growth of the Sunshine Coast.



The Maroochydore Electorate saw some fantastic funding wins for our local community groups. I truly value the work of our amazing volunteers and I will continue to work with them to ensure they are aware of the funding opportunities available to help achieve their club goals.

I'll be working really hard in 2014 and look forward to even more great achievements for the Maroochydore Electorate.

---

## State funding boost for local community groups

Three not for profit groups in the Maroochydore electorate started the New Year well with funding wins under the latest round of State Government community funding through the Gambling Community Benefit Fund and the Jupiters Casino Community Benefit Fund.

- Suncare Community Services Inc, \$31,818 for the installation of solar
- Maroochydore Surf Life Saving Club - \$15,454 for the purchase of rescue boat and equipment
- ASD Care (Autism Spectrum Disorder) - \$34,898 for the purchase of a motor vehicle

I want to encourage all our community organisations to apply for the next round of funding before the end of February 2014. For more information or to see a full list of recipients please visit [www.olgr.qld.gov.au](http://www.olgr.qld.gov.au) and click on 'grants'.

---

## Calls for a tougher stance on drug and alcohol-related violence

The State Government has announced a stronger stance against drug and alcohol-fuelled violence, including tougher penalties for offenders and a greater police presence in entertainment precincts. All options must be put on the table for consideration with feedback from Queenslanders, and especially young people, about what approach should be taken to tackle this problem. So far we have received an overwhelming support for tougher laws and penalties.

[Read more:](#)



Queensland  
Inspiring  
Women  
SPEAKER'S AWARDS

---

## Honour an inspirational Queensland Woman

I am seeking nominations for a local "Queensland Inspiring Woman" to go in the running to be honoured at my breakfast at Queensland Parliament House in Brisbane on March 7, 2014.

As Speaker I am delighted to be hosting the Queensland Inspiring Women awards in recognition of International Women's Day and to acknowledge the contributions made by the many amazing women in our communities.

[Read more:](#)

---

## The Queensland Plan: a 30 year vision for Queensland



Our working draft has now been released for public review from Sunday 8 December 2013 until 7 March 2014.

Feedback on the working draft will be used to refine the final plan, which will be released mid-2014. More information and a copy of the draft plan is available online at [www.qld.gov.au/queenslandplan](http://www.qld.gov.au/queenslandplan).

[Read more:](#)

