

Maroochydore | Electorate News

E-NEWSLETTER

Fiona Simpson MP

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE



March 2014

2 years of local achievements

A turn around in Sunshine Coast job creation figures as well as a 40% cut to the public housing waiting list in the Maroochydore Electorate are two of the most satisfying achievements for my local area on the second anniversary of the State Government coming to power.

It's an honour to serve my electorate of Maroochydore and I am pleased to report that we have a number of wins to celebrate.

Firstly, Sunshine Coast businesses have created more jobs than any other region in the latest ABS data which shows there are 11,300 more people in work in the region than 12 months ago. The unemployment rate has fallen 0.6 percentage points to 6.1%.

We are unabashedly "pro-business" in tackling red tape, and supporting the job creators who hold the key to unlocking job opportunities for our region.

The Sunshine Coast is out in front and Queensland as a State is leading national economic growth. After some tough years for many businesses and job seekers, there is still a way to go but the positive figures are welcome and heading in the right direction.

The latest ABS data also shows that Queensland dwelling approvals rose 3.8% in December, which is the highest level in six years and marks 24 consecutive months of increases, placing approvals at 58.6% higher than in December 2011.

The State Government is continuing to support our construction sector, with more than 4,200 Great Start Grants of \$15,000 already helping Queensland's first time buyers.

The dramatic cutting of the public housing waiting list figures was due to good management and common sense which was putting people in need in homes quicker.

My other achievements have included:

In this e-newsletter:

- [Work to begin on Maroochydore Road \\$2.4 million rehabilitation project](#)
- [8 new police officers to join Sunshine Coast beat](#)
- [Support for community call to action over alcohol-fuelled violence](#)
- [Have your say on "Safe Night Out Strategy"](#)
- [Local housing waiting list down by 40 percent](#)
- [Sunshine Coast dental wait list slashed](#)
- [Education funding wins](#)
- [Queensland's Inspiring Women honoured at Speaker's breakfast awards](#)
- [Opening of extension to Coast Guard Mooloolaba's headquarters](#)
- [Drought declared for Sunshine Coast region](#)

- \$5.6 million road upgrades on Maroochydore Road
- \$1.5 million upgrades on the Sunshine Motorway· \$7 million Maroochydore bus station
- \$750,000 permanent pipeline for sand pumping under the Mooloolah River mouth to improve safety at Mooloolaba Harbour **in addition to** several million on other dredging interventions
- \$525,000 rebuild of Mt Coolum walking track
- Donation of State land to Council for Sunshine Coast Airport upgrade
- \$810,000 Mooloolaba Boating facilities upgrades with floating walkways
- Land acquired for future Coolum Police Station
- Local public housing waiting list cut by 40%
- \$1.3m to clear school maintenance backlog in local schools
- \$800,000 for Great Results funding for local schools to target areas of need in learning
- Pacific Paradise cycle pathway
- \$120,000 plus in Get Going/Get Playing sporting grants
- New pedestrian crossing in Aerodrome Road plus new pedestrian crossing about to be constructed at Yaroomba

Together with Sunshine Coast colleagues, other achievements across the region are:

- \$1.8 billion Sunshine Coast Public University Hospital
- Working with the Federal Government to fund the Bruce Highway upgrades (Cooroy to Curra and Caloundra to Sunshine Motorway)
- Scrapping Labor's tax on the family home with the removal of stamp duty on principle place of residence which has been a significant benefit for the Sunshine Coast property market.
- 27 new police officers across the Sunshine Coast

Work to begin on Maroochydore Road \$2.4 million rehabilitation project

Further rehabilitation works on the Maroochydore Road are due to commence early April 2014 and is expected to take five weeks to complete, weather permitting.

This \$2.4 million project will involve replacing the existing asphalt surface with a new high-quality asphalt surface which will provide a safer, smoother surface for road users and reduce future maintenance costs.

[READ MORE:](#)

8 new police officers to join the Sunshine Coast beat

I was delighted to meet our 8 new first year constables who joined the ranks of the Sunshine Coast Police Service this month after successfully completing their 25 week training program.

These new police officers are in addition to the 19 more police officers already added to the Sunshine Coast region since April 2012 to help keep our local communities safe.

The QPS is undergoing its biggest recruitment drive in 20 years to deliver on our election promise to revitalise frontline services.



Support for community call to action over alcohol-fuelled violence

Stop the violence
LIVE FORUM

Join me online
Sunday March 2,
4pm-7pm

Facebook: FionaSimpsonMP

Thank you to everyone who took part in the State Government's on-line survey and my Facebook forum to share their views on this important issue.

There is a community-wide resolve to stop the violence and I believe support for tougher laws for offenders as well as a need for a culture change about the abuse of alcohol and drugs in our society.

In my statement in Parliament I expressed my condolences to the families of Wayne Dover and Bruce Steensen, whose tragic deaths have shocked and angered our normally peaceful Sunshine Coast community.

[READ MORE:](#)

Have your say on "Safe Night Out Strategy"

The draft Safe Night Out Strategy which aims to tackle alcohol and drug-related violence has now been released for public consultation and I encourage you to have your say.

More information including a link to a survey is available online at www.qld.gov.au/safenightout. The survey will be open until 21 April 2014.

Key aspects of the draft strategy include:

- The establishment of 15 'Safe Night Precincts' with local boards to safely and effectively manage key entertainment areas across Queensland
- Compulsory alcohol and drug education for all Queensland schools from Years 7 to 12
- Tougher penalties for people behaving badly or violently around licensed premises
- 'Coward punch' deaths will be punishable through a new offence of unlawful striking causing death with a maximum penalty of life imprisonment
- A 12 month trial of 'sober safe centres' in the Brisbane CBD where police can detain severely intoxicated people in a secure, supervised centre for up to eight hours
- Ensuring police have the powers and resources to respond quickly to alcohol and drug related violence
- Stronger and better co-ordinated action to ensure licensees provide a safe environment and comply with liquor licensing rules, including 'mystery shopper' style tests

- Mandatory ID scanners in venues trading after midnight in 'Safe Night Precincts'
- An awareness campaign, including advertising, to promote clear standards of responsible behaviour for patrons, licensees and police.

Local Housing waiting list down by 40 percent

New figures released this month reveal the social housing waiting list in the Maroochydore electorate has decreased by 40 per cent since the election of the Newman Government.

The number of households waiting for social housing assistance in the Maroochydore electorate had been cut to its lowest level in five years.

[READ MORE:](#)

Sunshine Coast dental wait lists slashed

The number of dental patients on the waiting list in the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service (SCHHS) has almost halved during the period February 2013 to December 2013.

12,139 dental vouchers have been issued to give patients access to urgent dental care.

In February 2013, 8,836 people were on the General Care Waiting List but by December 2013, this had reduced dramatically to 4,736.

[READ MORE:](#)

Education Funding wins

The State Government is focused on improving education outcomes for our children by increasing spending on education by \$707 million, delivering 724 new teachers and support staff. State schools in the Maroochydore electorate have received almost \$800,000 in funding to boost students' learning, following the announcement of a new education program, Great Results Guarantee.

[READ MORE:](#)

Queensland's Inspiring Women honoured at Speaker's breakfast awards

I was delighted to honour some of our outstanding women at a sold out breakfast event held at Queensland Parliament House in recognition of International Women's Day.

Narelle Souter of the Maroochydore Surf Life Saving Club was nominated to represent the Maroochydore electorate for her 25 years of service to Surf Life Saving Australia to help keep our beaches safe.

Narelle has served locally for the last 15 years as a dedicated member of the Maroochydore Surf Life Saving Club both on the beach, as patrol captain and at Board level.

She has been recognised with a number of Surf Life Saving awards including the highly prized Commonwealth of Australia National medal.

These awards honour women who demonstrate a spirit of generosity, whether through a particular initiative or through a



lifestyle of encouraging service to others.

Opening of extension to Coast Guard Mooloolaba's Headquarters

I was delighted to officially open the extension and to celebrate the success of this project which came to fruition thanks to the incredible help of local Rotary Club members, QF6 members and trade supporters who worked alongside John Annabell to do much of the work themselves.



John has been the leading force to ensure the long-awaited extension of the headquarters building on Parkyn Parade has finally been completed.

Members of QF6 surprised John with a special mention on the commemorative plate to acknowledge the dedication and effort that he has put into the completion of this project.

John has served for many years as the Commander of the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard QF6 at Mooloolaba - an organisation composed entirely of volunteers to keep small vessels safe at sea.

Drought declared for Sunshine Coast region

The Sunshine Coast has been included in a growing number of local government areas which are eligible for State Government emergency aid and funding, with 79 per cent of Queensland now drought declared.

Local producers in need, whether in a drought declared shire or not, can apply for the Queensland Government's Drought Relief Assistance Scheme as well as the Federal Government's Interim Farm Household Allowance.

The assistance includes freight subsidies and emergency water infrastructure rebates, as well as leasehold land rent rebates and water licence fee relief. Producers should contact DAFF on 13 25 23 or visit www.qraa.qld.gov.au.

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