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MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE • SPEAKER OF THE QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENT

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Two 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.

Queensland dwelling approvals rose 3.8% in December - the highest level in six years, marking 24 consecutive months of increases. Building approvals on the Sunshine Coast have increased by an impressive 57.0 per cent in the 12 months to February 2014.

Our local construction industry has benefitted from a boost of \$5 million worth of Great Start Grants which has helped more than 300 Sunshine Coast families to buy their first home and given an injection of many millions of dollars into this sector.

See overleaf for my list of achievements for the Maroochydore Electorate over the last two years.

Kind regards



Work underway on Maroochydore Road \$2.4 million rehabilitation project

Further rehabilitation works on the Maroochydore Road are now underway and are expected to take five weeks to complete, weather permitting.

This \$2.4 million project involves 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.

The first section of works will be on the western side of the Sunshine Motorway from Jones Road (both carriageways) for a length of approximately 810m west to Kunda Park.

The second section of works will be on the eastern side of the Sunshine Motorway from the motorway to Main Road/Grieg Street (both carriageways).

This section will link the areas that have already had re-surfacing works carried out, but required more detailed planning and surveying.

To minimise daytime traffic disruptions, works are being carried out between 6pm and 6am, Sunday to Thursday.

Support for community call to action over alcohol-fuelled violence

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.

Following the tragic deaths of Wayne Dover and Bruce Steensen, 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.

The Government has now released our draft "Safe Night Out Strategy" which aims to tackle alcohol and drug-related violence.

I encourage you to have your say by completing the survey online at www.qld.gov.au/safenightout. If you would like a paper copy of the survey, please contact my office.

The survey will be open until 21 April 2014.

