



Fiona Simpson MP

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE · SPEAKER OF THE QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENT

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Budget 2013

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.

The Budget continues to fund the new Sunshine Coast University Hospital with \$115.6 million going towards the new public hospital site this year.

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

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

Regards



Fiona and Mayor Jamieson with Judy, Lois and Chris from St John Ambulance

Sunshine Coast University Hospital update

Construction on our new hospital is now fully under way. The Sunshine Coast economy is looking forward to the boost from an additional 11,250 building related jobs over the next five years plus the 700 medical staff.

The Health Minister has assured me that the Sunshine Coast University Hospital will be a public hospital providing free health services. The Minister has confirmed that it will be a tertiary teaching hospital with the range and extent of services associated with such a facility.

“Thanks a million” to our Sunshine Coast Volunteers

I was delighted to mark this year’s National Volunteers Week with 260 of our valued Sunshine Coast volunteers co-hosting a celebration in Cotton Tree Park with Volunteering Sunshine Coast.

Special thanks also to Volunteering Sunshine Coast, The Lions Club of Maroochydore, St John Ambulance Service, Guide Dogs Queensland and the Sunshine Coast Council for their assistance in providing the entertainment, refreshments and first aid.

Volunteers are the backbone of our local clubs and organisations, many of whom provide essential services to our local community, and each and every one of them deserves to be recognised and thanked for all that they do.

New marine system to keep Maroochy River safe

A new marine safety system has been announced for the Maroochy River.

These new recommendations are the result of two reports, public consultation and many work hours from a group of key community stakeholders.

For more information on the changes, visit www.msg.qld.gov.au.



Positive step forward in flying fox management

I have welcomed the State Government's move to give local Councils more authority to manage problem flying fox roosts in urban areas. A more streamlined approvals process will give local Councils the authority to manage flying fox roosts in urban areas without having to apply to the State Government for a damage mitigation permit.



Chappie Breakfast at Parliament House

It was great to welcome local school Chaplains Adam Rose of Maroochy State High School and Carl Jackson of Pacific Paradise State School to the Speaker's Chappie Week Breakfast at Parliament House.

School road safety boost for Maroochy State High

The State Government is ramping up its commitment to improving safety around school zones with flashing light signs being installed at seven Sunshine Coast schools including Maroochy State High School.

This extra safety boost is particularly important for schools like Maroochy State High where there is high volume of multi-lane traffic passing the school and the flashing lights signs will help to alert motorists they're approaching a school zone.

Principal for a Day at Pacific Paradise State School

I received a warm welcome from staff and students of Pacific Paradise State School during my recent visit as part of celebrations for State Education Week 2013.

The annual week-long celebration is a great opportunity to recognise the talent and achievements of students and teachers in our state schools, and showcase their wonderful work to the wider community.

