



Fiona Simpson MP

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE • SPEAKER OF THE QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENT

Suite 1, Cnr First & Memorial Avenues Maroochydore Qld 4558

P 07 5443 7995 E maroochydore@parliament.qld.gov.au W www.fionasimpson.com.au



October 2013

Tourism looking sunny-side up

Latest tourism figures for the Sunshine Coast are looking up after some great sporting events and terrific weather. From May to September the Sunshine Coast hosted nine top class events to draw in a broad range of visitors from athletes, to garden enthusiasts and foodies.

Direct flights from June to October from New Zealand are adding another \$20 million to the Coast economy.

I welcome news of a Japanese company's plans to build a new luxury resort and residential development on a beachfront site at Yaroomba which could boost our region's economy by an additional \$120 million a year.

The proposed "Living with Nature" Development will be the first significant new hotel on the Sunshine Coast in recent times. This is great for local jobs – both during construction and when the hotel is operational.

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.

Regards

Fiona Simpson MP
Member for Maroochydore



Maroochydore City Job Focus

While we can all take pride in the diversity of our unique collection of communities which make up the Sunshine Coast, I believe Council's visionary plans to recognize Maroochydore as the region's main commercial centre will complement and enhance our regional economy and our social fabric.

The announcement of the Maroochydore Priority Development Area by the State Government will reinforce the area as a strong community hub, enhance tourism and local business and create more jobs for the Sunshine Coast.

The 60 hectare site will provide an opportunity to reinvigorate the region through top quality residential, commercial, retail and mixed use development in a city centre.

Economic Development Qld (EDQ) and Council will now prepare a development scheme for the area which will guide future development and the local community will have an opportunity to have their say when the public notification period commences in 2014.



Pictured left with Cr Jason Opray. I was honoured to recently be asked to help launch the volunteer Surf Life-saving Season at Mooloolaba Beach.

New Sunshine Coast University Hospital bigger than Ben-Hur

Construction of the new \$1.8 billion Sunshine Coast University Public Hospital is fully underway on a 20-hectare site at Kawana. The finished hospital will be bigger than the Royal Brisbane Hospital and the Royal Women's Hospital combined. Our local economy will benefit from an additional 11,250 building related jobs over the next five years plus an additional 700 medical staff

This will be a **public** hospital providing **free** public hospital services to help meet the growing demand on the Coast, meaning that an estimated 10,000 patients each year will no longer have to travel to Brisbane for complex treatment.



The Government is investigating the service delivery model which may involve a range of services being provided by the private or not-for-profit sector but this is subject to ensuring not just value for money, but high clinical and teaching standards.

The Queensland Plan

There has been a great response to *the Queensland Plan* in the Maroochydore electorate with 148 surveys completed and over 40 people attending my round table forums. I have enjoyed catching up with local residents and listening to their vision for Queensland and the Sunshine Coast.

The results are being formulated into a clear direction for *Queensland*, which will be released in late 2013. The responses focused on ways we can foster greater community involvement in meeting local needs and how to build a deeper and more diverse economy beyond traditional industries of tourism, construction and retail, building on the strengths of our university and the new hospital.



Have your say on Queensland's electricity future

The State Government's 30-year Electricity Strategy discussion paper has now been released for community consultation. The State Government is working hard to help cut overhead costs in the industry which have left a legacy of higher electricity price rises. Local residents, businesses and industry members now have the opportunity to give their views on the changes needed to address the immediate and long-term challenges for Queensland.

The discussion paper is available at www.dews.qld.gov.au, with submissions closing on 6 December 2013.

Funding wins for local groups

Congratulations to the seven grant recipients in my electorate in the latest State Government funding provided through the Gambling Community Benefit Fund and the Jupiters Casino Community Benefit Fund.

Local groups included:

- Maroochy Sailing Club—\$24,043 to upgrade facilities
- Maroochy Neighbourhood Centre—\$26,293 to install solar system and upgrade lighting
- Apex Queensland Youth Camps—\$25,807 to provide air-conditioning for dormitories
- Maroochydore Hockey Club—\$3,215 to purchase sports equipment
- Sunshine Coast Youth Partnership—\$33,882 to run youth engagement projects
- Association of Guide Dogs for the Blind—\$1,486 to purchase a guide dog simulator
- Maroochydore Rugby Union Football Club—\$27,500 to upgrade the canteen