



Speech By  
**Rob Molhoek**


**MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Southport Electorate, Police Resources

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (7.01 pm): We just heard the Minister for Police saying how the government backs our police. Just last week in the electorate of Southport a special forum was held, because the local business community was very concerned about antisocial behaviour and visible homelessness within Southport, Surfers Paradise and other parts of the Gold Coast from Broadbeach to Coolangatta and even in parts of Nerang, in the electorate of Gaven.

At that forum we heard from some of the local police who said that they are the only people working after 6 pm. Under this current Labor government, we have seen a blowout in the Public Service—an extra 30,000 public servants employed over the past couple of years—but fewer police in Southport; fewer police on the Gold Coast. What happens? One of the people who was at that forum said that, come four o'clock, all the public servants go home and the only people still dealing with issues of antisocial behaviour, homelessness and lawlessness on the streets of Southport and the Gold Coast are our frontline police who are under-resourced and under-appreciated. I find it absolutely appalling that just two minutes ago the minister could stand there and say, 'We back our police.' The government is not backing the police. On the Gold Coast we do not have the resources on the ground—on the streets—that we require. We have lots of promises, lots of words, lots of rhetoric, but we do not have more police.

What have we seen in the past six months? In Southport, police have been taken off the job to deal with prisoner transfers backwards and forwards between Brisbane and the Gold Coast because of the juvenile watch house crisis. We are not seeing more police; we are seeing police resources diverted. We heard the member for Gaven ask that wonderful question—'Minister, tell us about community safety.' We heard the minister give us this great promise and this great commitment about more police resources, but the fact is that members of the Police Service, members of those many great community service organisations on the Gold Coast that are trying to deal with antisocial behaviour, trying to deal with homelessness, are telling the community that the Labor government is failing Gold Coast in the delivery of services.

There are so many plans. Earlier, we heard that there is going to be a review of insurance in North Queensland—another plan, another review. That is what Labor governments deliver. We are not seeing real services on the ground.

*(Time expired)*