

Sandy Bolton MP

Independent Member for Noosa

Our Voice.
Our Noosa.
Our Future.



September 2025 Newsletter #84

My first trip to the Australian Parliament in Canberra as a Queensland MP, was a real eye-opener and I was impressed by all we encountered, saw and learnt. It demonstrated that politicians could debate in a respectful and dignified manner, and I trust that my call to both sides of our Chamber has resonated, as the poor behaviours between is not a good example of leadership to our communities and young Queenslanders. Nor is ramming through legislation bypassing the appropriate processes, including committee as regardless of the topic consultation should always be undertaken. With our new government failing to overhaul the committee and estimates system as promised, for the first time I have actually wondered whether the only way to end this type of abuse of powers is for a reinstatement of the Upper House? Something for you to chat about over your next dinner party, or coffee, and I would be interested to hear your thoughts!



Australian Parliament Visit

Hot Issues

Whale Entanglement & Shark Nets – On 17 September, a mother whale and her calf became entangled in shark nets here in Noosa. As soon as alerted, we contacted the Shark Control Program Hotline and a contractor arrived at 9:20pm, successfully releasing both by 11:00pm with the assistance of local groups and while appreciated, we have requested information from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on ensuring faster rescue protocols. A follow-on meeting from two years ago by Oceans for All, formerly known as the Noosa Shark Net Working Group, was held to ascertain the positions of local organisations regarding the replacement of nets in Noosa with alternative measures during whale migration season to end these entanglements, as well of other non-target species such as the dolphin last week who passed away. Further updates will be posted on Noosa 360, via www.sandybolton.com/noosa360.



Whale entanglement off Noosa



Shark Net Meeting



Noosa Dental Clinic

Proposed Closure of Noosa Dental Clinic – Following our investigations, Sunshine Coast Health and Hospital Service confirmed sufficient demand exists for Noosa dental chairs 5 days weekly, and that the proposed closure stems from dentist recruitment challenges and high operating costs, not demand issues. We have requested the Health Minister investigate alternative solutions for affected residents and encourage all to join us in doing so by emailing health@ministerial.qld.gov.au and copying our office in via noosa@parliament.qld.gov.au, after reading SCHHS' response at <http://bit.ly/46p9uvP>.



Noosa Dolphins Womens team celebrating Grand Final Victory



Go the Mighty 'Phins



Prepping for the Annual Noosa Community Christmas Lunch

Short Term Accommodation (STA) – The Deputy Premier confirmed the Cabinet Housing Ministerial Taskforce decided councils should regulate STAs through planning schemes and local laws, following a 2023 University of Queensland report rejecting statewide blanket rules. Given STAs can harm liveability in tourism areas, we have asked that consideration be given to address injurious affection to provide greater certainty and flexibility in how local governments manage this. Other advocacies include a statewide register, mandatory data sharing, and funding for existing management schemes.

Kin Kin Quarry EPBC – Following the controlled action declaration, we met with the Federal Minister for Environment's team who advised that the applicant must now produce a Public Environment Report focusing on endangered species impacts and habitat offsets. These reports typically take 6 to 18 months, followed by up to 6 weeks public consultation. We will monitor progress and update our community when consultation opens. For more details, visit www.bit.ly/3VZ3rt2

E-bikes and E-scooters – The Minister for Transport and Main Roads advised that they are pursuing increased e-mobility education in schools, including deployment of road safety officers to deliver interactive presentations with the Queensland Police Service. We continue to advocate for consistent age limits, trial of ID-tags, as well consideration of registration and insurance, and have also requested progress on Office of Fair Trading enforcement of retailers who are supplying illegal devices under false or misleading claims. For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/4gw9EpV>.

Status Report

Destination 2045 – Our efforts to uncover funding allocations for managing increased visitation and impacts on our environment and national parks saw the Minister for Environment responding that balancing conservation and tourism development was key to Destination 2045. As this lacks detail, we are awaiting further ministerial responses and the finalisation and release of the Cooloola Management Plan to inform the next steps in our ongoing advocacy.

National Park Rangers – \$84.6 million has been allocated over 5 years to the 'More Rangers, Better Neighbours' program, which aims to boost the number of rangers. Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service are also increasing compliance patrols outside regular hours and peak times to address issues including inappropriate e-bike and e-scooter use.

Body Corporates – We have requested information from the Attorney-General regarding current investigations into lengthy body corporate management contracts and efforts to enhance the organizational capacity of the Office of the Commissioner for Body Corporate and Community Management. We are also monitoring developments under the Property Law Act 2023, particularly the seller disclosure requirements and maximum fees chargeable to sellers to ensure they remain commercially reasonable.



Opening the Noosa Country Show



W/ our Rural Fire Service



Hijinks at the Show



Yellow Ribbon Day Volunteer & Young Volunteer of the Year



W/ Sharryn Ghidella at the International Year of Co-Ops



Launch of QShelter's Strategic Plan 2025-2045



W/ Parliamentary Intern Ross

From the Chamber

Politicking over Pill Testing – An innocuous Bill on pharmaceutical regulations served as a ‘trojan horse’ to override the rights of Queenslanders to have their say. Restrictions during the second reading debate prevented MPs from addressing the bypassing of scrutiny and community consultation and consequently, the speech I delivered was the ‘silenced’ version. Tactics preventing Queenslanders and their MPs from having their say is the ultimate testimony to the failings of our system. To read my full, unabridged speech, visit www.bit.ly/42NrQ2a

Prioritizing Victims' Voices – New legislation will limit how ‘good character’ evidence is used in sexual assault cases. While victim advocates say this does not go far enough, legal professionals worry this could limit courts’ ability to formulate balanced sentences. Ultimately, we must prioritise victims’ voices and trauma, and I have asked for an independent post-implementation review to ensure this legislation works as intended. Read my full speech at www.bit.ly/3W77zHz

Parliament After Hours – Amongst the many events, we attended the launch of QShelter's Strategic Plan 2025-2045, as well as Care Opinion Australia's forum with discussions including on how online healthcare feedback can improve local understanding to help address challenges. We also celebrated the International Year of Cooperatives, where we caught up with Channel 10 Newsreader Sharryn Ghidella and learnt about the positive impact member-owned organisations have had on our economy and communities over the past century and a half. At the Yellow Ribbon Day celebrations, we honoured Queensland's 27,000+ Rural Fire Service volunteers, recognised this year's Volunteer and Young Volunteer of the year, and caught up with some of our Rural Fire Brigade members, including Ian Pike, Harry Kirk, and Pete Cameron. Finally, between it all, we welcomed our latest intern Ross, who is examining the complexities of domestic and family violence and impacts of the new ‘Oster’ powers.

On the Homefront

Noosa Country Show 2025 – We always love opening this annual and sharing our thanks to the volunteers, sponsors and supporters who have kept it going for 114 years. This year's theme of ‘Seasons’ captured nature's grand cycle and after 2 days of fun, including the Honky Tonk Rodeo, dog show, wood cutting demonstrations, and of course fantastic art and music, including a performance by Marshall Hamburger, everyone was definitely well-seasoned!

Noosa Dolphins Grand Final – This trifecta was spectacular! The women's team snatched a nail-biting victory in extra time to win 17 to 14, while our A-grade boys staged an amazing comeback against University to win 37 to 34. The Reserve grade also delivered an incredible performance and, while they were defeated, fought hard and with spirit to the end.



W/ Noosa Trailblazers



A Dog's Life: Noosa Pet Expo

A Dog's Life: Noosa Pet Expo – This year's expo on Gympie Terrace raised funds for Smart Pups Assistance Dogs and the Sunshine Coast Animal Refuge and was filled with glammed-up pups, agility demonstrations, training sessions, games to play and stalls packed with delights for our furbuds. It also gave my Bear and Coco a chance to practice their social skills!

Noosa Yacht Club – Youth Member for Noosa Jarrah and I cheered on competitors in the Sailability Regatta, and it is wonderful to see this all-abilities program thriving with over 600 participants in the last 6 months alone. We also helped open the refurbished downstairs of the clubhouse, which was made possible thanks to a state government grant and the work of many!

50 Years of Cooroy-Pomona Demons – It was a big night under the marquee for this milestone anniversary with legend Billy who, with over 670 games under his belt, shared some fabulous stories and presented awards to the club's players and patrons. It was brilliant to learn more about this club's history and the many characters!

Meetings, Catch-ups & Drop ins – This month has been filled to the brim, including discussions with the Australian Marine Conservation Society on the challenges facing Queensland's marine environment, with the Boating Industry Association and Noosa Boating and Fishing Alliance regarding their views on the proposed Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority, and with Matt from Noosa Salvos and Jude from Making Lives Matter to do some early planning for our annual Noosa Community Christmas Lunch. To see the Noosa Trailblazers in action and get an update on their mountain bike trail upgrades, made possible thanks to another Queensland Government grant, was seriously educational as they are daredevils!

And Finally...

While blame is being directed at single causes like immigration, the housing crisis as I shared in Noosa Today in the 3 Oct edition has many contributors including decades of government failures and policy missteps. Ultimately, we must stop the 'blame game', get on with fixing these failures and as we enter community consultation, be part of the solution. This includes if you own an investment property like a short term let in residential areas, headlease with community housing providers like Coast2Bay or Youturn.

After 3 years of dedication to our efforts, our fabulous staffer Dylan is taking another step up his career ladder and is off to Canberra! We are so proud of him, and the role we have played in his journey, and even though we will miss him, are thrilled for his adventures ahead! If you know of anyone who loves our community, is a superstar and ready to join a committed, hardworking team, please send them to Seek at <https://www.seek.com.au/job/87543685> which has the details on how to apply. Until next month where I will also update on my learnings as a delegate to the Commonwealth Parliamentarians Conference overseas, love our home and all within!

Sandy 🙋

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Noosa Yacht and Rowing Club



Sailability Regatta



Cooroy-Pomona Demons 50th Anniversary



W/ Coast2Bay CEO Andrew

KEY CONTACTS

Emergency

Cooroy Police Station	5442 5030
Crimestoppers	1800 333 000
Emergency Services	000
Lifeline	13 11 14
Noosa Police Station	5440 8111
Pomona Police Station	5485 2586
Policelink	131 444
State Emergency Services	132 500

Housing & DFV Support

Better Together Housing	0427 465 148
Caloundra House (NDIS focused, no children)	3517 0166
Centacare	1300 236 822
Community Action Inc	
Gympie	5482 6188
DVConnect – men's line	1800 600 636
DVConnect – women's line	1800 811 811
Homeless Hotline	1800 474 753
IFYS Limited (Youth)	5438 3000
Kybara Community Association Inc	5441 3837
Maroochydore Housing Service Centre (Dept of Housing)	5352 7333
Pomona Community House	5485 2427
SunnyKids – 07 5479 0394	
The Salvation Army Supported Accommodation Service	
Sunshine Coast (Nambour)	5447 1184
Youturn Youth Services	5442 4277

Health Support

1800Respect	1800 737 732
Alcoholics Anonymous Australia	1300 222 222
Blue Care	1300 258 322
Blueknot	1300 657 380
Head to Health	1800 595 212
Headspace	5409 4900
Katie Rose Cottage	5471 1468
Lives Lived Well	1300 727 957
Medicines Line	1300 633 424
Mensline Australia	1300 789 978
Mental Health Carer	
Arafmi QLD	1800 554 660
Mental Health Access Line	1300 642 255
Narcotics Anonymous Australia	1300 652 820
Alcohol and Other Drug Hotline	1800 250 015
National Home Doctor	13 74 25
Noosa Community Health Centre	07 5449 5944
Noosa Hospital	5455 9200
Ozcare	1800 692 273
Parent line	1300 301 300
Poisons Information	131 126
QLD Health	13 43 25 84
Quitline	13 78 48
Sexual Assault Helpline	1800 010 120
StandBy	1300 727 247
Suicide call back service	1300 659 467

Women's Health QLD	1800 017 676
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General Support

Animal Welfare League Qld	5509 9000
Australian Red Cross	1300 885 698
Child and Family Services	1800 177 135
Child Safety	1300 703 921
Good Shepherd	1300 050 150
Making Lives Matter	5238 8181
National Debt Helpline	1800 007 007
Pomona & District Community House	07 5485 2427
RSPCA Pet in Crisis Program	07 3426 9999
Salvos Mates Support	0423 317 375
St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland	1800 846 643
The Hub Food Outlet	5449 9658
The Salvation Army	07 3001 6288
Waves of Kindness Care Centre	0499091352

Seniors

Elder Abuse Hotline	1300 651 192
Seniors Card QLD	137 468
Seniors Enquiry Line	1300 135 500
U3A Noosa	5440 5500

Legal

Community Legal Centres	02 9160 9500
Legal Aid QLD	5433 6200
LGBTI Legal Services	3124 7160
Public Trustee of Queensland	1300 360 044
Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Legal Service	07 4045 7500
Queensland Ombudsman	1800 068 908
Suncoast Community Legal Service	5376 7800
Women's Legal Service Qld	1800 957 957
Youth Law Australia	1800 950 570

Noosa River

Australian Maritime Safety Authority	1800 627 484
Coast Guard Noosa QF5	5474 3695
Fishwatch Hotline	1800 017 116
Maritime Safety QLD	5373 2310
QLD Boating and Fisheries	5449 7555

Energy and Water

Energex	13 12 53
Energy and Water Ombudsman	1800 662 837
Unitywater	1300 086 48

Federal

Fairfax - Ted O'Brien	5479 2800
Wide Bay - Llew O'Brien	4121 2936

Noosa Shire Council

General Enquiries	5329 6500
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Other Services

QPWS (National Parks)	13 74 68
State Roads (Urgent Issues)	13 19 40
Translink	13 12 30
Wildlife Noosa	0419 046 999
Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc	07 5441 6200