

Sandy Bolton MP

Independent Member for Noosa

Our Voice.

Our Noosa.

Our Future.



October 2025 Newsletter #85

Before we dive into updates, I wanted to share my privilege of serving as one of 2 Queensland delegates at the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Barbados. The workshops, lectures, and conversations reinforced our responsibility as representatives to Queensland, Australia, and globally. With fellow MP's representing 2.7 billion people across 56 countries, the learnings were invaluable. Barbados' Prime Minister delivered an inspiring address emphasizing that governments must acknowledge mistakes and that pausing to listen demonstrates wisdom, not incompetence. A consistent theme emerged: political parties, parliamentarians, and media must examine how their behaviours incite division and erode trust as combined with AI's amplifying effects, more important than ever is respectful debate, transparency, credibility, accountability and bipartisan agreements to reduce financial waste.



Australian Delegation at the CPC Barbados

Hot Issues

Whale Entanglement & Shark Nets – With a second whale entanglement in Noosa and following an Oceans for All meeting where 70% of local business, environmental, and water-user groups in attendance supported a trial to replace shark nets with safe alternatives during whale migration, also requested by Noosa Council, I raised this matter in Parliament where I outlined key evidence, including the 2019 Federal Court determination, Administrative Appeals Tribunal findings, and University of Wollongong research that nets do not improve swimmer safety. With government ignoring this evidence, along with KPMG's recommendations to transition away from nets and calls from both Council and our community, I asked given that safe alternatives are already used successfully elsewhere, will the government listen to our community and work towards replacing shark nets with these alternatives during the next whale migration season? Read my full speech at <http://bit.ly/43ualuu>

Noosa River Management – Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) announced they are consolidating the stage 6 and 7 reforms into a single stage. These changes will now take effect 1 January 2026 and introduces a twenty-eight-day anchoring limit per financial year across the entire Noosa River system, including connected lakes and creeks. To provide feedback on any of these changes, please email sunshinecoast.maritime@msg.qld.gov.au and CC our office in via noosa@parliament.qld.gov.au.



Oceans for All Meeting



Whale Entanglement in Noosa



Meeting with MSQ



Interview with Channel 7



Operation Spring Break
Teewah

Financial Scams – Following recent events, I asked the Minister for Open Data what the government is doing to prevent financial fraud using social engineering Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools which are impacting governments, businesses, and individuals statewide. With cyberattacks occurring every six minutes in Australia and AI making scams more complex, we urge residents to learn how to identify and respond to scams via www.scamwatch.gov.au, and businesses to explore the Cyber Warden program at <http://bit.ly/3KQ8DgQ>. To read the Ministers response, visit <http://bit.ly/477OCJZ>.

Operation Spring Break – Sunshine Coast Highway Patrol issued 126 infringements over four days during the holidays along Teewah Beach in the Great Sandy National Park. These figures highlight long-held community concerns about unsafe and damaging behaviour in the Cooloola Recreation Area. Whilst we appreciate increased enforcement activities, current management and protections are inadequate, and we continue to urge government to implement long-requested measures including speed reductions, seasonal closures, and tighter permit limits, as community expectations and environmental protections are not being met.

Status Report

Queensland Energy Roadmap – This newly announced plan scraps the previous government's aim to phase out coal-fired power by 2038 and instead will continue until at least 2046. The rationale given is to address rising energy costs and maintain supply reliability, while supporting the transition to net zero by 2050. The changes have drawn mixed responses from stakeholders around impacts on industry, jobs, and the environment, as well in renewable investment. Our office is currently reviewing the roadmap, and we invite resident feedback to help inform advocacy. Please read the Energy Road map at <http://bit.ly/479Qmmb> and share your views via noosa@parliament.qld.gov.au.

Cooroy Intersections – Transport and Main Roads has now called for tenders to progress the business case and designs. Please note that these intersections are within the Nicklin electorate, which is represented by Marty Hunt MP, who can be contacted via nicklin@parliament.qld.gov.au and please cc our office.

Vessel Registration Reforms – Transport and Main Roads (TMR) are developing reforms to vessel registration and identification requirements as part of addressing boat abandonment and dereliction. These changes aim to improve accountability and reduce future wrecks in our waterways, so please provide feedback on the current system and what you feel is needed to inform our advocacy and help shape these future reforms. Please email your feedback to noosa@parliament.qld.gov.au.

Updates on the many matters our office is working on are available at Noosa 360 via www.SandyBolton.com/Noosa360. Just use the handy search bar to find information on topics of interest.



QLD CPC Delegation Barbados



W/ fellow MPs at the Commonwealth
Parliamentary Women's Workshop



Health Carers @ Parliament



Walk in Wings Noosaville



W/ Youth Member Jarrah (Noosa) & Nick (Nicklin)



Diwali and Annakut Celebration



Quiet Please for MND & Me



@ Men's Mental Health

From the Chamber

2025 YMCA Queensland Youth Parliament – This annual was phenomenal and a credit to all involved. From meeting the Youth Premier and Cabinet at the Opening Ceremony to serving as Deputy Speaker, every moment showcased our future. We were proud of everyone selected from the 500 applicants, especially Noosa's Jarrah and Nicklin's Nick, who spoke with passion and wisdom, with the road tolls debate highlighting how challenging proposing solutions without increasing costs can be! The key takeaway understanding your 'why' determines what you fight for and sustains you through difficulties. Gratitude to the organisers for a momentous week, and to all Youth Parliamentarians who are making a difference in politics and beyond!

Containers for Change – The Health, Environment and Innovation Committee, of which I am a member, released the findings of its Inquiry into Improving Queensland's Container Refund Scheme, with several referrals made to appropriate independent bodies. Recommendations included for the Productivity Commission to investigate whether raising the return amount would deliver better return rates, however ultimately it is up to all of us to boost our recycling and lessen the load on our landfills!

Parliament After Hours– In amongst was the launch of two new QLD Parliamentary 'Friends of' (Mental Health Carers and Men's Health), testing of Queensland products, and meeting incredible advocates with Motor Neurone Disease MND, including Gina and Leanne who moved me in ways I could never imagine. We also had the pleasure of celebrating Diwali and Annakut with members of Queensland's Hindu community that saw Parliament House filled with light and colour.

On the Homefront

National Police Remembrance Day 2025 – As we gathered with family members and friends to honour police officers who have fallen in the line of duty, as well Queensland Police Service (QPS) staff who support them and police dogs who served as loyal protectors, I thought of those poignant words 'Hasten the Dawn.' Alongside many, we laid a wreath on behalf of Noosa recognising their ultimate sacrifice to keep our community safe, whilst the bagpipes reflected our loss. Gratitude to all of our QPS officers and staff for what you do every day. It is deeply appreciated.

Peregian Beach Bushcare – Environmental innovation comes in many forms and the Noosa born and bred 'asparagus assassin' tool funded through our Noosa MP Grants is a fantastic example. To see our volunteers in action, we trekked up through Peregian Beach Access 60 where they demonstrated this incredible invention by Ron Gooch, which makes eradicating this environmental disaster 5 times faster. Gratitude to these committed volunteers who work hard and crawl into the most difficult places to safeguard our native ecology!



Police Remembrance Day in Kawana



Wreaths laid in honour of fallen QPS Officers

Sunshine Butterflies Walk in Wings – Gympie Terrace and the riverside paths came alive with colour, energy, and community spirit, and cutting the ribbon is always an honour. The turnout was incredible with familiar faces and new friends united to support the 'Neigh it Forward' fundraiser to help with the care of the furry and feathered friends! Huge thanks to the Sunshine Butterflies team, their wonderful volunteers, supporters and sponsors, and to everyone who walked, ran, rolled, or danced for this amazing cause. Pure magic!

Meeting, Drop-ins and Catch-ups – A jammed pack diary of diversity, including with the Envoy Foundation and representatives from Queensland's tourism sector on effective shark mitigation technologies, Care Opinion on how patient and consumer feedback can help improve our health and aged care services, all the way to learning from Zara about her volunteerism with Lifeline and present her with a very well-deserved Queensland Day Award! There were also many interviews, including with Steve Austin from ABC Radio on poor behaviours in parliament and ways to improve this through committee reform. To listen to this interview head to: <http://bit.ly/4o3L2rF>

And Finally...

The year is nearly over, and I use this opportunity to give enormous gratitude to our community, much-loved volunteers and of course my staff including Dylan who has headed into his future to Canberra as a newly married man! Every day in every way, you inspire selflessness, ignite passion for all around us, and importantly foster love. For each other, our natural environment, furry and feathered friends, and importantly, for credible information gathering and evidence as part of growing Noosa's knowledge for effective decision making!

Our home is special, and I encourage everyone to keep spreading ways in making it even more special. Simple courtesies to strangers, all the way to dedicating your expertise and time to our many not for profits or rejecting disrespectful posts and commentary on social media. Importantly, help inform our advocacy and Chamber voting decisions by completing our 2026 Noosa Community Survey in the Connect!

And please, stay safe on our roads and waterways this summer and prepare for storms, fires or floods, by visiting www.getready.qld.gov.au and Noosa's Disaster Dashboard at <https://disaster.noosa.qld.gov.au/> Importantly, share our important contact numbers, which you can find via www.sandybolton.com/keycontacts/ with friends, neighbours and on community pages when you see someone in need. To our 2025 school leavers, congratulations! Our community is so proud of you, and we look forward to sharing photos from the presentations in the December newsletter edition!

Enjoy the lead into Christmas, and remember to take a moment in the 'rush' to breath, or to just 'be'. ❤️ Sandy



Peregian Beach Bushcare



Talking Parliamentary Culture w/ ABC's Steve Austin



Presenting a Queensland Day Award to Zara



Christmas Hijinks



Dylan's farewell

Sandy 🙏
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PHONE: (07) 5319 3100
FAX: (07) 5319 3109
EMAIL: noosa@parliament.qld.gov.au

www.sandybolton.com

OFFICE:
Suite CB05 Noosa Civic
28 Eenie Creek Road Noosaville QLD 4566

[sandyboltonnoosa](https://www.facebook.com/sandyboltonnoosa)

POSTAL:
PO Box 1447
Noosaville BC QLD 4566

[sandy_bolton_noosa](https://www.instagram.com/sandy_bolton_noosa)



KEY CONTACTS

Emergency

Cooroy Police Station	5442 5030
Crimestoppers	1800 333 000
Emergency Services 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 Caloundra House (NDIS focused, no children)	0427 465 148
Centacare	3517 0166
Community Action Inc Gympie	1300 236 822
DVConnect – men’s line	5482 6188
DVConnect – women’s line	1800 600 636
Homeless Hotline	1800 811 811
IFYS Limited (Youth)	1800 474 753
Kybara Community Association Inc	5438 3000
Maroochydore Housing Service Centre (Dept of Housing)	5441 3837
Pomona Community House	5352 7333
SunnyKids – 07 5479 0394	5485 2427
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
Carramar - Aged Care Tewantin	5449 8799
Head to Health	1800 595 212
Headspace	5409 4900
Katie Rose Hospice	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 – Aged Care Tewantin	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

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 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
Noosa District Animal Hospital 24/7	5473 0004
Sippy Creek Animal Pound	5494 5275
State Roads (Urgent Issues)	13 19 40
Translink	13 12 30
Wildlife Noosa	0419 046 999
Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc	07 5441 6200