

Sandy Bolton MP

Independent Member for Noosa

Our Voice.
Our Noosa.
Our Future.



March 2026 Newsletter #88

The month has been fabulous in so many ways, whether compiling the annual Noosa MP Community Survey results, reading the hundreds of insightful comments, or looking at ways to strengthen our 'listening ecosystem' which sounds scarier than what it actually is! This has included trialling poll-style questions on social media, which are mostly in response to bills that may have been tabled by government or the opposition, for example the recent capping of fuel prices, or where clarification is needed on a survey response. A reminder to check the information in the first comment before replying to questions as some are confusing the question put as our opinion, or something we are advocating for which is not the case! What we are most definitely after is greater feedback from the 'silent majority' as saying 'no one is listening' when you are not having a say makes no sense?



With our wonderful frontliners

Hot Issues

Noosa MP Community Survey – A huge thank you to more than six hundred residents who completed our annual survey. Even though considered an acceptable sample size in line with surveys conducted by other levels of government, we would love to see more Noosans take part, and your suggestions on how we can achieve this is very welcomed! The results saw strong majorities in support for a number of items, including banning gambling advertisements on public transport (93%), making passengers over eighteen years responsible for wearing a seatbelt instead of the driver (92%) and increased funding for in-home hospice and palliative care (90%). With a significant rise in 'Undecided/Need more information' responses, we are investigating how we can include background information on items that is not too lengthy, or in any way biased, and the use of single-issue polls where a majority of 75% could not be determined due to a high number of undecided responses. We encourage everyone to subscribe via www.sandybolton.com/newsletters/ to be alerted and receive updates when these surveys/polls open, and be assured that your subscription is not used for any other purpose! View the results of this years survey, via www.sandybolton.com/your-say-annual-survey/



Gratitude to our Survey Respondents



Lake 'Mac' Project



Women's Shed Cladding Jig!

Pomona Pedestrian Crossing - Following ongoing advocacy since 2018 it is encouraging to see further progress of designs for the Factory Street crossing, along with an additional crossing at Memorial Avenue, upgrades to existing crossings, a reduced 40km/h speed limit through the town centre and raised entry treatments to slow traffic as vehicles enter Pomona. Subject to final designs and approvals, construction is expected to begin later this year. For further information, visit www.sandybolton.com/pomona-pedestrian-crossing-update-february-2026/



Our Fab Men's Shed Helpers



The Tools are Up and Ready!

Lake Macdonald Dam Improvement Project - Construction continues to ensure the dam meets modern engineering standards, operates safely and secures water supply for the future. The project is now entering a critical stage with demolition of the existing spillway. Seqwater has advised this phase will involve continuous works to maintain site safety with demolition currently scheduled to begin in late April and planned to run for approximately 15 days. Efforts will be made to minimise impacts, including scheduling higher-impact activities during standard hours where possible, using temporary noise barriers, removing excavated material during daytime hours and more. For questions or concerns, please contact the Seqwater team at projectinfo@seqwater.com.au. More information on the project is available via www.seqwater.com.au/project/lake-macdonald-dam-improvement-project.

Status Report

Wildlife Warning Signs - We sought clarification from the Department of Transport and Main Roads regarding the inclusion of local wildlife rescuer contact details on signage. TMR confirmed local numbers are not supported due to risks of outdated information, with the 1300 ANIMAL hotline remaining the preferred contact as it connects to a centralised RSPCA service which can provide then provide the details of local wildlife rescuers. We have requested confirmation of the total number of 1300 ANIMAL signs in the Noosa Electorate and where they are located, as well that they be considered for installation in wildlife strike hotspots. For more information, visit www.sandybolton.com/wildlife-warning-signs-update-february-2026/

Illegal Vape Forfeiture and Disposal - In response to community feedback, our office sought clarification from the Minister for Health regarding the process by which illegal vapes are destroyed under new Queensland laws. Updated legislation allows for the immediate forfeiture and destruction of illicit vaping products to reduce fire, environmental and storage risks that previously arose during lengthy holding periods. The minister's office clarified that seized devices are typically destroyed at Queensland waste facilities through high-temperature incineration or dismantling, with components such as lithium batteries managed under strict environmental standards. We will continue monitoring disposal processes, including emerging opportunities for recycling and energy recovery. For more information, visit www.sandybolton.com/illegal-vape-forfeiture-and-destruction-february-2026/

Disability Royal Commission - Since the Royal Commission tabled its final report in 2023, we have continued advocating for the Queensland Government to implement all relevant State recommendations. We have received advice from the Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services, who has confirmed that work is underway, including engagement with the disability community in partnership with Queenslanders with Disability Network to support reform implementation. We have also sought additional funding in the upcoming State Budget to help accelerate delivery and will continue to monitor progress closely. For more information, visit www.sandybolton.com/disability-royal-commission-and-infrastructure-update-february-2026/



@Tewantin Noosa Tennis Club



Birthday Party w/ Team Noosa



PGA Golf on Speaker's Green



Public Service Seminar

Business Grants - A range of Queensland Government grants and programs are now open, supporting manufacturing, workforce participation, tourism capability, cyber security and community safety. If you own a business, consider taking a look at what is available. With Small Business Month coming up in May grants are also available to Chambers of Commerce, industry association and local council to deliver events tailored to their communities and local economies. We have collated the current business grants, which you can access via www.sandybolton.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/February-Business-Grant-.pdf.



W/ Minister Brent & Auntie Bridgette

From the Chamber

Antisemitism & Gun Laws - Following the horrendous Bondi terror attack last December, state government proposed new laws prohibiting the public display of hate symbols, and tightening gun controls through stricter licensing, background checks and improved data sharing between state and federal agencies. While it is important that governments act to prevent tragedies like this occurring again, concerns were raised about the very limited consultation and Committee scrutiny. Representatives of Queensland's Jewish community warned the laws risk further polarisation and discrimination, while academics cautioned that the ministerial powers to ban specific slogans could open the door to politically driven restrictions on freedom of speech, with amendments at the last minute taking these changes out. Ultimately, legislation nor greater penalties will end hatred, violence and discrimination in our communities, and with government not listening to submitters concerns and the evidence, as well undertake appropriate consultation, we were unable to support the bill. Especially disappointing during the debate was the 'weaponising' of grief, trauma and sorrow of this horrific event for political gain, which is deeply inappropriate and furthers divisions and hate. My speech is available at <http://bit.ly/47ybdQQ>

Housing - My Adjournment speech gave opportunity to raise again the ongoing housing crisis, impacting our fellow Noosans, businesses and service delivery. With a growing waitlist and nowhere for these residents to transition to while our social and affordable projects are completed in approximately 2 years, we need those temporary accommodations I have consistently fought for. The harsh reality as I raised is that governments continue to talk about housing targets decades away that do not address the waitlist of today, nor possibly hundreds of thousands more who may become eligible once the income threshold, which has not been updated in 20 years, is raised. The true scale of need is still an unknown, as no data has been collected, and how can decisions be made without all facts? <https://www.sandybolton.com/parliament/speeches/>

Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority (SCWA) - The questions we have raised over the past year remain unanswered, including who requested Noosa be included, and what benefit will be realised. Another level of bureaucracy at a cost of \$36 million, with no extra resources to manage and monitor our river as sought for decades? Despite what some have claimed, there has been no public consultation as confirmed in the bill's explanatory note and it remains vital that Noosans have their say through the committee submissions process which is currently open until March 20, so have your say at <https://bit.ly/4sCuKYF> and please cc' us in noosa@parliament.qld.gov.au.



Premier Portraits Unveiled



Start of the 2026 Sitting Year



Friends of AFL



With Sam of Courageous Girls



Meeting w/ Humane World for Animals



Meeting our latest intern Phoebe



Catching up with Intern Sam



Clean Up Aussie Day North Shore



Pooches getting ready to Clean Up!

Urgency Motions – We continue to call for an end to practices and standing orders that allows governments to rush legislation through the House when there is no urgency, limiting debate and Queenslanders’ ability to have their say. This was particularly concerning with the so-called ‘electoral reform’ that increased who and how much political donations parties and candidates can receive. Not only does this undermine democratic principles, it trivialises the genuine urgent pressures that are affecting our communities, including the ongoing housing and cost-of-living crises impacting everyday Queenslanders.

Matter of Public Importance – People must come before politics, and effective systems must be the priority if we are to achieve that. As I said in Parliament, if governments keep doing the same thing, we will keep getting the same results. Whether it is housing, illegal e-bikes, delays in delivering what should be straightforward such as signage, or more complex, expanding the emergency department at Noosa Hospital, these ongoing issues highlight a system where politics too often takes precedence over people and practical outcomes. We need less politicking, more action, and a genuine commitment from government to boldly reform systems that are no longer fit for purpose. See my full speech via <https://bit.ly/4bvaqIf>

After Hours – The first sitting weeks of the 2026 Parliamentary year brought together moments of reflection and recognition. From the official opening and Welcome to Country, and the unveiling of the portrait of Queensland’s 39th Premier, it was also a chance to pause and reflect on the many leaders and Speakers who have shaped our state’s history. We also connected with some of our AFL and PGA sporting greats whilst having a ‘swing’ and met Sam from the Courageous Girls Club to discuss their ground breaking work in confidence building. Always enjoyable was sitting on a lunchtime panel at the Public Service Seminar, answering questions on how Parliament works and the role of an MP!

On the Homefront

Kinetic Bus Depot Opening – With a capacity for 32 buses it is expected that this \$15 million depot will cut more than 400,000 kilometres of non-service travel each year, potentially reducing 500 tonnes of CO2 emissions. It was fabulous to meet the crew from drivers and engineers to CEO Michael Swards, and to fall in love with Aunty Bridgette Chilli’s artwork on the buses. The Minister for Transport and Main Roads helped officially open the site and we took the opportunity to raise Noosa’s other transport priorities, including the need for those small electric buses our community has advocated on for many years! With the draft Northern Sunshine Coast Transport Strategy expected to be released soon, this depot will play a big part in providing better connections.

Tewantin Noosa Tennis Club Lighting – A \$44,000 investment through Games On! has seen the installation of new lighting bringing eight courts up to national playing standards while improving safety and accessibility for evening play. Minister for Sport Tim Mander officiated, marking another milestone for the club and its members. This upgrade will support players of all ages and abilities after getting on the court after hours, which for busy Noosans is gold!



Opening of the Noosaville Kinetic Bus Depot



Cutting the ribbon!

Funding of our Arts! – Through the Regional Community Arts Program (RCAP), the Pomona Railway Station Gallery has received over \$34,000 to assist with the continuation of its fab programs in our hinterland, and we look forward to celebrating with them on March 7 during their 25th anniversary. The New North Artist Run Initiative has received \$19,500 for its Apparent Light installation at Peregrin Beach, a two-night projection and light-based activation set to transform the village into an open-air exhibition of light, sound and performance in July, so please join us!

Community events – Amongst was a very happy 80th birthday to the Lake Cootharaba Sailing Club! Hundreds gathered to share memories, mateship and fascinating history. Fabulous photos and catching up with our first families, including legend Charlie Hacker, gave insights into how special this club is, and why it is the 'anchor' for celebrations and deliberations. Our awesome Noosa Women's Shed celebrated the completion of insulation and cladding for their new home, made possible with a Noosa MP grant and the wonderful support of the Noosa Men's Shed. Gratitude to everyone who braved the rain for Clean Up Australia Day Noosa, as well the mozzies and maggots we met with during our North Shore patrol, which even had our pooches running for cover! Noosa Council please bring back the Kerbside pickup, as we encountered some very big items that even Shoey could not lift!

Meetings, Catch-ups & Drop ins – A full schedule included the hosting of a round table for our front-line housing support teams to get updates on anyone presenting as homeless, discuss the ongoing pressures facing Noosa workers, and clarify whether there has been any change to historical requests, which there is not. Representatives from Humane World for Animals (formerly Humane Society International) brought current welfare advocacies from caged chickens to marine life, and security was key from Tewantin State School which has sadly seen over the holidays an increase in vandalism, which is so not Noosa, and requires appropriate fencing to put an end to. Our regular session with MSQ on the rollout of the Noosa River Management Plan saw it ending as every other over the last 3 years – residents must be prioritised including in relation to mooring waitlists!

And Finally...

We are blessed to have one of the most proactive, kind and compassionate communities anywhere, and with that comes some vulnerabilities. Hence why it is important before residents post anything into public domain or make commentary, to check your source of information, and inquire to that person, agency, level of government, representative, organisation or business. With Artificial Intelligence (AI) increasingly being used in a multitude of ways including nefariously, it is vital we do not fall prey to fake news, impersonators or scammers. As someone said to me over the weekend, nothing beats a face-to-face conversation, as we most definitely then know what and who we are dealing with!

Until next month, enjoy the start of autumn, embrace the many gifts that we all enjoy living where we do, and give appreciation to those who make possible those gifts. If you need any assistance, please call us on 53193100 or email noosa@parliament.qld.gov.au. as we love hearing from you, and not the AI generated correspondence we, and MP's across Australia, are now the recipient of!

PS. Thank you to everyone for the wonderful birthday wishes! It was perfectly imperfect in all ways



Lake Cootharaba Sailing Club 80th



Cutting the Birthday Cake



With legend Charlie Hacker



Hand signing welcome letters to over 400 new 'constits'

Sandy
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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
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