

Sandy Bolton MP

Independent Member for Noosa

Our Voice.
Our Noosa.
Our Future.



April 2026 Newsletter #89

Busy? An understatement! In amongst, despite hopes for improved conduct in Parliament, the abuse of processes and timewasting mudslinging between the two sides of politics sadly continues. In our Private Members Statement, we asked everyone to imagine a Chamber where people, not politics, are prioritised. Not the next election, big donors, or getting a 'win', instead a focus on the challenges we face, with respectful, evidence-based debate on the matters impacting Queenslanders whether fuel or housing prices. Instead, we continue to see division, point-scoring, and petty politicking while those we represent are being brought to breaking point. As highlighted by the recent South Australia elections, voters have had enough of this under the political duopoly and are looking for alternatives. As I asked both sides, will this be a 'what' or 'who'? They have nothing to lose by supporting an independent analysis of our Parliament, and addressing the failings, as time is ticking until the 2028 elections!



Pomona Railway Station Gallery's
25th Anniversary



Public Briefing on SCWA Bill



With Work Experience Student Sinead



@Noosa Surf Lifesaving Club

Hot Issues

Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority – Tabled legislation, a public briefing and hearing have provided some clarity on the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority (SCWA) after 18 months of queries, with questions remaining. The SCWA would be governed by a seven-member board with responsibility for navigation, mooring, sand movement, infrastructure and waterways management strategies, while Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) would retain harbour master powers and responsibility for safety and pollution management. In essence, SCWA would be responsible 'in water' and MSQ 'on water'. There was no mention of how SCWA would act in relation to 'next to water', including boating infrastructure, which has traditionally been a local government responsibility. The \$35.6 million allocated over the next three years would fund "establishment and core operations", with major works still requiring state government budget considerations. To clarify misinformation online, I have not been opposing the SCWA; I have been asking necessary questions, including what benefit it would provide for Noosa, who requested our inclusion and what exactly the \$35.6 million covers as the clear need demonstrated is for on ground resources, not another level of bureaucracy. Thank you to the 41 Noosans who made for and against submissions to the committee, as this was the only formal opportunity for our community's voice to be heard, as well the public hearing which would have been held after this went to print! For more information on the bill, visit:

<https://www.sandybolton.com/sunshine-coast-waterways-authority-bill-2026/>



@Noosa Festival of Surfing



@Pomona Community House



Pomona Pilates Activation



With NSLSC Seahorse Nippers



St Teresa's Entrepreneurial Classroom



Meeting Saint Vincent de Paul Housing

Electric Bikes and Scooters - As reported the Parliamentary Inquiry into E-Mobility Safety has released 28 recommendations regarding unsafe riding behaviours on e-mobility devices and illegal e-motorbikes and modified e-bikes. These include restricting compliant devices to riders aged over 16 with at least a learner licence, introducing anti-tampering laws, and granting police powers to seize, impound and destroy illegal devices. The Queensland Government has accepted all 28 recommendations in some form and has introduced legislation to implement them, and we have raised concerns brought so far to our office and continue to ask for feedback, whether supportive or opposed, be sent to inform our advocacy via noosa@parliament.qld.gov.au. To read the Inquiry report and recommendations, visit:

www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Tabled-Papers/docs/5826t0264/5826t264.pdf. The committee is inviting submissions from all interested parties before 10am Friday 10 April 2026, submissions can be made via www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-Committees/Committees/Committee-Details?cid=272&id=8575

State Facilitated Developments (SFD's) - The Queensland Government has finalised its review of the State Facilitated Development framework, introducing changes that require proposals to align with zoning and secure written support from local councils. While this is a positive, particularly after previous applications bypassed planning schemes, the removal of the requirement for 15% of dwellings to be 'affordable' has raised concerns. Housing and homelessness advocates, including QShelter, have highlighted the importance of maintaining clear affordability targets to ensure increased supply translates into real outcomes for communities. We have requested the rationale for their decision given their stance on this, as well excluding affordability targets from the Land Activation Program, as workers and their families need genuine affordable accommodations. For more information, visit www.sandybolton.com/state-facilitated-development-sfd-update-march-2026/

Electoral Boundary Redistribution - The Queensland Redistribution Commission (QRC) has released the proposed electoral boundary changes with minimal adjustments proposed for Noosa with part of Federal being transferred from Nicklin (to be renamed 'Nambour'), to Noosa. However, this has not addressed submissions that called for Cooroy and other precincts with their strong community of interest to be included in Noosa, nor to more fully align with Noosa Shire Council boundaries. To view the proposed redistribution and to lodge an objection before April 9, visit <https://redistribution.ecq.qld.gov.au/public-consultation/the-commissions-proposed-redistribution>

Land Valuations - Queensland's Valuer-General has updated land valuations across Noosa and 14 other local government areas to take effect from 30 June 2026 based on market values as of 1 October 2025. Given the ongoing cost of living challenges, this has caused concerns about potential rate rises, which can only be addressed by contacting our Councillors. Those who disagree with their valuation can lodge objections before 11 May 2026 via www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/title/valuation/objections/objections/process.

Status Report

Lake Macdonald Dam Improvement Project - Upgrades are expected to begin after Easter at the intersection of Elm Street and Lake Macdonald Drive to improve safety and traffic flow to support this project. The intersection will be widened so heavy vehicles can turn safely in and out of Lake Macdonald Drive, removing the need for traffic controllers and improving safety for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians. Site establishment commenced on Monday 30 March with major construction expected to begin Tuesday 7 April 2026 and continue for approximately 12 weeks, subject to weather and construction conditions. Works are scheduled Monday to Friday from 6:30am to 6:30pm, and Saturdays from 6:30am to 4:00pm. Intermittent night works may also be required with nearby residents to be notified in advance if needed. For more information, visit: www.seqwater.com.au/project/lake-macdonald-dam-improvement-project

Bruce Highway Off Ramp Lighting - While outside the Noosa Electorate, we sought information from the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) regarding the inactive off-ramp lighting at Cooroy, Eumundi and Pomona exits on the Bruce Highway, following concerns related to night-time visibility and safety. TMR responded that outages are the result of copper theft and vandalism, and that mitigation measures are being investigated to reduce the risk of further theft. While appreciated, we have reiterated that reinstatement of lighting should remain a priority. For more information visit www.sandybolton.com/bruce-highway-off-ramp-lighting-update-march-2026/.



Pomona Mobile Office



Streetside yarns



Zonta International Women's Day



ASPG Panel on Voting Age



Catholic Education Community



Suicide Prevention Awareness Breakfast

From the Chamber

Noosa North Shore Landing Reserve - We asked a Question Without Notice to the Minister for Environment regarding the site, requesting that the department release the 2023 community consultation results, provide an extension of time for current recreational users, and convene a meeting with relevant departments, recreational groups and Noosa Shire Council, as previously committed to. This followed repeated unanswered correspondence, and an imminent deadline for recreational users to vacate, limited transparency around suitable alternate sites, and no assurance the site would remain maintained for emergency services and Lifelight. The Minister's response did not address any of these matters, instead misquoted our response to their query on whether we supported revocation where we advised without responses to the outstanding requests for information we could not currently consider. With neither government nor recreational groups providing the consultation results despite online claims there was a 2:1 outcome against transfer to national park, we have had to lodge a Right to Information application. For more information on the bill, visit: <https://www.sandybolton.com/sunshine-coast-waterways-authority-bill-2026/>.



@QLD Futures Institute



Local Government Association QLD



Kids Helpline 35th Anniversary



Testing Vision Impairment Goggles

Crime Statistics – In an adjournment speech, we highlighted the ongoing politicisation of victim and crime data, including the cherry-picking of statistics to support narratives and legislative agendas that are not reducing crime rates. As recommended by the former Youth Justice Select Committee, Queensland needs accurate and transparent reporting, along with an expanded role for the Queensland Crime Statistics Unit, to move beyond the ongoing back-and-forth between the major parties as Queenslanders must surely be asking after 4 years of this, who is telling the truth? Watch my full speech, via <https://bit.ly/3Qflrje>.

Questions, Questions, Questions! - The Minister for Housing must have felt particularly popular, with our Questions on and without notice once again directed his way! These included whether he would activate that portion of the former House with No Steps for transportable worker accommodation, provide additional immediate response extra funding for providers such as Youturn, who are at or nearing capacity, and ongoing matters relating to the Queensland Building and Construction Commission. With over 94% of respondents in our Noosa MP Community Survey supporting changes to current laws that fine drivers for passengers not wearing seatbelts, we asked the Minister for Transport whether the Department is reviewing this and from the Minister for Health we sought updated data on patient wait times at Sunshine Coast University Hospital. As part of increasing our ‘listening ecosystem’ we also posed questions online to our community on a number of matters that have been tabled in Parliament such as ‘Castle Law’. Thank you to everyone who shares their views, and for the respectful and informed manner you are doing so!

Parliament Before and After Hours – From the Australasian Study of Parliament Group panel on lowering the voting age to 16, Local Government Association of QLD and Queensland Futures Institute gatherings on collaboration, to Suicide Prevention, impaired sight supports, and celebrating 35 years of Kids Helpline with yourtown, all the way to the Outback Futures Showcase, we connected, learnt and absorbed so much that my head space was on overload!

On the Homefront

Noosa MP Quick Start Grants – Each year, our office returns as much of our operating budget as possible back into the Noosa community through support for local not-for-profit organisations and community groups. Grants of up to \$1,000 are available for small projects or initiatives, and up to \$500 as a ‘helping hand’ to assist with increased costs (excluding wages) with applications closing Friday 24 April 2026. Information on eligibility criteria and how to apply is available at www.sandybolton.com/mp-funding-partnerships. For any questions, please contact our office on 5319 3100 or email noosa@parliament.qld.gov.au.

Grassroots Environmental Grants – Congratulations to the Noosa Bush, Beach and Creek Care who has received \$29,876 from the Queensland Government for their Cooloola Urban Wetland Rehabilitation, which aims to restore wetlands in Sunshine Beach, re-establish local wildlife corridors, and remove invasive pests such as the white morning glory vine and other weeds. For more information on the Grassroots environmental grants, visit <https://bit.ly/41FY8L7>.



Noosa Arts Theatre



With our Surf Life Savers

Community events – Where do I start? Amongst so many was the annual Noosa Surf Life Saving Club Sponsors Breakfast where we met our fabulous youth leaders and athletes, a road trip to Pomona to celebrate the Railway Station Gallery’s 25th anniversary and catch up with residents street side at a mobile office. Land and Sea’s 8th birthday with the Koala Crusaders and the adorable Monty was heartwarming as was International Women’s Day screen-printing with Pomona Community House and Zonta’s annual breakfast with inspiring speakers including Jo Mason from Workhaven. We also celebrated the 70th anniversary of the 1956 Olympics at a legacy event at Sunshine Beach Surf Life Saving Club, opened the Noosa Festival of Surfing, immersed in the 3rd Annual Seahorse Nippers Joint Program, and joined the judging panel at St Teresa’s Catholic College for their Entrepreneurial Classroom where students developed products and pitched their ideas! The Noosa Netball March Past Parade and opening of their new clubhouse was a sea of brilliant energy, as was the Carramar Easter Bonnet Cheer morning tea. Pheww, how blessed we are!

Meetings, Catch-ups & Drop ins – A full schedule included meeting with the Noosa World Surfing Reserve to discuss ongoing advocacy for recognition and protection of our world-famous surf breaks, the Katie Rose Cottage Board regarding their current funding needs, St Vincent de Paul Housing to discuss potential partnerships for transitional accommodations, and Noosa Coast Guard QF05 on their operations and advocacy avenues to help attract and retain volunteers. All fabulous organisations and volunteers who do incredible work for our community!

To Finish...

After a newsletter full of ‘heavy duty’ information, we need something lighter and that is the upcoming Easter Bilby/Bunny visits, and cross fingers, some bowser relief on fuel prices! With Australia again being severely impacted by what is occurring elsewhere, as we said after the COVID pandemic, we need to make sure we are resilient and self-sustaining. We have the resources and wherewithal; we now need to make that a priority whether that be food or fuel!

Until next month, stay safe on the roads and waterways, and for those travelling to Noosa North Shore, Teewah and the Cooloola Recreation Area, police will be active as part of Operation Sandstorm, enforcing speed limits, seatbelt laws, and drink and drug driving. Our office will be closed from Friday 3 to Tuesday 7 April, with emails and phone messages responded to on our return. For urgent assistance or emergencies, key contacts are available via www.sandybolton.com/keycontacts

A reminder regarding Anzac Day on April 25. Please join in on any of our services including the Cooroy Dawn Service, and at the Tewantin Main Parade, where we pay our respects and honour the sacrifices that have provided the freedoms and life we often take for granted. As always if you need any assistance, please call us on 53193100 or email noosa@parliament.qld.gov.au.



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Noosa Netball March Past



SCR 32 Sports Legacy Taskforce



Carramar Easter Bonnet Cheer



With Autism Queensland
 Ambassador - Emma Tomlinson

Sandy
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KEY CONTACTS

Emergency			
Cooroy Police Station	5442 5030	Suicide call back service	1300 659 467
Crimestoppers	1800 333 000	Women's Health QLD	1800 017 676
Emergency Services	000	General Support	
Lifeline	13 11 14	Animal Welfare League Qld	5509 9000
Noosa Police Station	5440 8111	Australian Red Cross	1300 885 698
Pomona Police Station	5485 2586	Child and Family Services	1800 177 135
Policelink	131 444	Child Safety	1300 703 921
State Emergency Services	132 500	Good Shepherd	1300 050 150
Housing & DFV Support		Making Lives Matter	5238 8181
Better Together Housing	0427 465 148	National Debt Helpline	1800 007 007
Caloundra House		Pomona & District Community House	07 5485 2427
(NDIS focused, no children)	3517 0166	RSPCA Pet in Crisis Program	07 3426 9999
Centacare	1300 236 822	Salvos Mates Support	0423 317 375
Community Action Inc		St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland	1800 846 643
Gympie	5482 6188	The Hub Food Outlet	5449 9658
DVConnect – men's line	1800 600 636	The Salvation Army	07 3001 6288
DVConnect – women's line	1800 811 811	Waves of Kindness Care Centre	0499091352
Homeless Hotline	1800 474 753	Seniors	
IFYS Limited (Youth)	5438 3000	Elder Abuse Hotline	1300 651 192
Kybara Community Association Inc	5441 3837	Seniors Card QLD	137 468
Maroochydore Housing Service Centre (Dept of Housing)	5352 7333	Seniors Enquiry Line	1300 135 500
Pomona Community House	5485 2427	U3A Noosa	5440 5500
SunnyKids – 07 5479 0394		Legal	
The Salvation Army Supported Accommodation Service		Community Legal Centres	02 9160 9500
Sunshine Coast (Nambour)	5447 1184	Legal Aid QLD	5433 6200
Youturn Youth Services	5442 4277	LGBTI Legal Services	3124 7160
Health Support		Public Trustee of Queensland	1300 360 044
1800Respect	1800 737 732	Queensland Ombudsman	1800 068 908
Alcoholics Anonymous Australia	1300 222 222	Suncoast Community Legal Service	5376 7800
Blue Care	1300 258 322	Women's Legal Service Qld	1800 957 957
Blueknot	1300 657 380	Youth Law Australia	1800 950 570
Carramar - Aged Care Tewantin	5449 8799	Noosa River	
Head to Health	1800 595 212	Australian Maritime Safety Authority	1800 627 484
Headspace	5409 4900	Coast Guard Noosa QF5	5474 3695
Katie Rose Hospice	5471 1468	Fishwatch Hotline	1800 017 116
Lives Lived Well	1300 727 957	Maritime Safety QLD	5373 2310
Medicines Line	1300 633 424	QLD Boating and Fisheries	5449 7555
Mensline Australia	1300 789 978	Energy and Water	
Mental Health Carer		Engorex	13 12 53
Arafmi QLD	1800 554 660	Energy and Water Ombudsman	1800 662 837
Mental Health Access Line	1300 642 255	Unitywater	1300 086 48
Narcotics Anonymous Australia	1300 652 820	Federal	
Alcohol and Other Drug Hotline	1800 250 015	Fairfax - Ted O'Brien	5479 2800
National Home Doctor	13 74 25	Wide Bay - Llew O'Brien	4121 2936
Noosa Community Health Centre	07 5449 5944	Noosa Shire Council	
Noosa Hospital	5455 9200	General Enquiries	5329 6500
Ozcare – Aged Care Tewantin	1800 692 273	Other Services	
Parent line	1300 301 300	QPWS (National Parks)	13 74 68
Poisons Information	131 126	Noosa District Animal Hospital 24/7	5473 0004
QLD Health	13 43 25 84	Sippy Creek Animal Pound	5494 5275
Quitline	13 78 48	State Roads (Urgent Issues)	13 19 40
Sexual Assault Helpline	1800 010 120	Translink	13 12 30
StandBy	1300 727 247	Wildlife Noosa	0419 046 999
		Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc	07 5441 6200