

I was buoyed to read President of the Queensland Law Society, Bill Potts, acknowledge the need for a true legal hub on the Gold Coast (11/09/2019). It is my understanding the last time the State government reviewed the case for a Supreme Court in Southport was almost 20 years ago, by then Attorney-General, Denver Beanland. Since then, the population of the Gold Coast has grown by over a third and so has the very pressing need for us to have our own permanent Supreme Court, Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT), Family Court and Federal Court.

As Council candidate standing for Division 6, the sad state of our CBD is of much concern. Bringing a permanent Supreme Court to Southport is one of three actions I will champion to ensure Southport is transformed into a vibrant and proper CBD.

The second is moving the City of Gold Coast Council employees into a new base in the Southport CBD. Our Mayor has already hinted at moving the local council staff from Bundall to a new office building in Southport. This will be a great start to re-energising our CBD.

The third is moving one or more state government departments from the Brisbane 'centre of the universe' to Southport. This is something the state government should look at not only for Southport but also for other regional areas that could benefit from being home to public servants. Not to mention the benefit of reducing the number of locals having to traipse up the M1 every day. The natural first choice for the Gold Coast, is moving the office of the State Department of Innovation and Tourism Development here.

As Mr Potts says, no longer should Gold Coasters be treated by those in the 'Tower of Power' as the poor cousins. I look forward to standing up for our city to those in the 'Tower of Power' and garnering our fair share from the state government.

Brooke Patterson, Council Candidate, Division 6