




Speech by
Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

Hansard Wednesday, 14 November 2012

GOLD COAST, 2012 PAN PACIFIC MASTERS GAMES

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (9.51 pm): I rise to bring to the attention of the House the enormous success of the Pan Pacific Masters Games, which was held on the Gold Coast from 3 November to 11 November 2012. This year, with the inspiring motto of 'Play it, Live it, Love it', the Pan Pacific Masters Games brought together over 41 different sports, including individual sporting events and team sports such as basketball, beach volleyball, cricket, hockey, AFL, baseball, water polo, rugby league, rugby union, and individual sports such as archery, athletics, shooting and swimming. I might add that last Saturday, 11 November, I joined the folk who were competing in the clay target shooting and it was very successful. I am not going to brag about the things I won.

This week-long event brings participants aged over 30 from all over the world, with approximately 12,000 competitors enjoying our beautiful weather while competing in this world-class event of the Pan Pacific Masters Games. The Queensland government, through Events Queensland, is a sponsor of the event along with the Gold Coast City Council, our flagship national airline, Qantas, the *Gold Coast Bulletin* and radio station 92.5 Gold FM. I would like to acknowledge their support as these types of events do not happen without supportive and committed sponsors that come on board to give the financial injection that is needed for such fabulous events to go ahead.

This biennial event has found its home on the Gold Coast—very similar to the Australian Surf Life Saving Championships—after being held at different locations around the world and the Gold Coast is the perfect spot for it. In alternate years the Australian Masters Games is held. This is a wonderful tourist event—a real sleeper on the Gold Coast—for ongoing tourism on the Gold Coast. Of course, we must remember that tourism is one of the four pillars of the Campbell Newman LNP economy.

Mrs Stuckey: Sixty thousand nights.

Mr STEVENS: I take that interjection from the Minister for Tourism that 60,000 nights were generated.

I now turn to restaurants and entertainment precincts, which I am very familiar with. During this event, those venues were absolutely packed.

A government member: Yes, we can tell.

Mr STEVENS: Yes, I know. The body is proof. The accommodation houses and hotels surrounding the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, which acted as the games village this year, were full to the brim. The party events were fantastic. In fact, some people would say that, from the way they partied late into the night, the mature-age competitors acted very much like mature-age schoolies.

Events such as the Pan Pacific Masters Games are wonderful for the Gold Coast. They bring considerable numbers of tourists and tourism dollars into the Gold Coast economy. The Gold Coast has fabulous sporting facilities, great accommodation facilities and wonderful locations in which to stage events such as the Pan Pacific Masters Games. The event was one to well and truly remember.