



Speech by
Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

Hansard Thursday, 15 November 2012

MOTION

Child Protection Commission of Inquiry

Mr STEVENS (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Manager of Government Business) (9.56 am), by leave,
without notice: I move—

That this House:

1. Notes that the following former ministers have agreed to not object to the production of documents required by and produced to the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry, those documents having been prepared for the former ministers and which are proceedings in parliament pursuant to section 9 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001:
 - Hon. Wayne Goss
 - Hon. Anne Warner
 - Hon. Dean Wells
2. Ratifies the production of the documents by the former ministers and guardians of those papers;
3. Resolves that the former ministers and guardians of those papers have not committed any contempt by producing the papers;
4. Notes that other documents have been identified as being both relevant to the commission of inquiry and documents that are likely to be proceedings in parliament pursuant to section 9 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001, but the ministers for whom they were produced are unable to be identified and thus their consent to produce them is unobtainable;
5. Ratifies the production of the documents by the guardians of the papers, the ministers for whom they were produced being unable to be identified; and
6. Resolves that the guardians of those papers have not committed any contempt by producing the papers.

I wish to advise the House that this motion is very similar to motions moved in 2011 to endorse the release of documents to the Floods Commission of Inquiry. By way of background to this matter, the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry has issued two summonses—one to the Acting Director-General of JAG and the other to the State Archivist. Departmental chief executive officers are considered the guardians of documents held by their departments and are also considered the guardians of documents held by Queensland State Archives pursuant to the Public Records Act 2002.

Crown Law advises that the summonses compel the production of, amongst many other documents and records, some parliamentary papers. Further, Crown Law has identified them as documents that are likely to be proceedings in parliament pursuant to section 9 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001. In order to provide them to the inquiry to assist it in its investigations, the former ministers—the Hon. Wayne Goss, the Hon. Dean Wells and the Hon. Anne Warner—for whom the parliamentary papers were created have been contacted and their consent has been obtained to provide those confidential parliamentary papers to the commission of inquiry.

There are also some further documents that are compelled by the summonses that Crown Law advises, on the face of them, are likely to be proceedings in parliament pursuant to section 9 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 but that despite their best endeavours Crown Law and the State Archivist cannot ascertain for whom those other parliamentary papers were created. The House is asked to endorse the production of the parliamentary papers to the commission and to resolve that there is no contempt by the former ministers or the guardians of the documents in the provision of the documents to the commission of inquiry.