



Speech by  
**Ray Stevens**


**MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH**

Hansard Wednesday, 28 November 2012

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## **LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE**

### **Membership**

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Manager of Government Business) (2.00 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the member for Gaven, Dr Douglas, be discharged from the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee and the member for Ipswich, Mr Berry, be appointed to the committee as chairperson.

Under the Parliament of Queensland Act it is my role as the Manager of Government Business to appoint the chairs of committees and the government's nominees to committees. With the member for Condamine deciding on the weekend that the hard work of government was too much for him, I had to consider who in the government would and could take on the important role of Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee chairperson. In filling this vacancy I had to weigh up who would best be suited to this role and what other changes should be made to committees as a result.

On Monday I rang the member for Gaven and advised him that I would like him to become the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee chairperson. In the course of this conversation the member for Gaven agreed to take on this new role and fill this vacancy. At no stage did the member for Gaven say that he did not want to do this role. Indeed, he indicated that he believed he would like the new role. I subsequently advised the Premier of this.

After the member for Gaven made some comments to the media yesterday, the Premier asked to meet with me and the member for Gaven to clear up any misunderstanding. At this meeting yesterday afternoon, which was also attended by one of the Premier's senior staff, the member for Gaven again confirmed that he was quite happy to be the chairperson of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. In addition, the member for Gaven was shown a media statement reflecting that position which the Premier's office planned to issue which he said he was completely comfortable with.

In this meeting the member for Gaven indicated that he understood it was the prerogative of the Manager of Government Business to make changes to committees when vacancies arise. Further to this, at 8.16 pm yesterday the member for Gaven rose in this House to say that it was a great privilege to be the new incoming chair of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. Thus, it was a complete surprise this morning to hear the member for Gaven on radio essentially claiming that he was no longer happy to take on this new role.

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee is an important portfolio committee that examines issues and laws relating to justice, police and emergency services. It also monitors and reviews the performance of the Ombudsman and the Information Commissioner and must be consulted regarding senior appointments to the Electoral Commission of Queensland. This important committee needs and deserves a chair totally committed to the job, not someone who views it as second prize.