




Speech By  
**Ray Stevens**

**MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENTS**

**Party Houses**

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (2.36 pm): I rise today to update the House on the government action on the party house issue, which is one of the most disturbing activities causing our usually peaceful communities to experience unruly and unacceptable behaviour on a regular basis. Today I can say that this is a start of the party being over for good for these unapproved, backdoor accommodation operators. We now have a plan to eradicate and stop for good unapproved short-term holiday letting businesses in residential areas.

On Friday, 8 March I met with the CEO of the Gold Coast City Council, along with my colleagues the new Assistant Minister for Planning Reform, the member for Southport, and Councillor Betts. Along with council representatives we came to the conclusion that affirmative and swift action has to happen with this issue. For five years the Gold Coast City Council has failed to act strongly enough to eradicate these abhorrent and antisocial party houses and it is a local government planning problem.

*A Current Affair* has recently done another story on party houses on the Gold Coast, with party goers in the story and pictures that were more risqué and offensive than ever before. The community has had enough. In the words of the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, the party is over and the people of the Gold Coast are relieved that action is finally being taken and finally something is being done.

The volume of complaints to my office have increased over the years and residents are outraged from watching the *A Current Affair* program that shows appalling behaviour happening in our residential communities time and time again, week after week. Drunken and unruly behaviour, including party goers vomiting and urinating in backyards, is totally unacceptable. This is in full view of neighbours and their families. These parties go on for days and music is blaring day and night.

The state government, the Deputy Premier and the Assistant Minister for Planning Reform, in conjunction with the Minister for Local Government, will give councils the power with statutory instruments to regulate and shut down short-term holiday letting in residential areas. I have fresh eyes that have arrived in the shape of the new director of planning for the Gold Coast City Council, Ms Gail Connolly. She is already making the right noises about making the effects of this material change of use on these properties as impact assessable.

We will give councils, through state laws and regulations, the power and authority to control these party houses. State planning officers will work together with local planning officers to ensure these laws are enforced for the safety and security of our communities and to restore the peace and tranquillity in our communities. I implore the officers and councillors of the Gold Coast City Council to understand the nightmare that neighbours of these houses are suffering and to be unstinting in their pursuit of a resolution to this party house problem once and for all.

*(Time expired)*