




Speech By
Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Queensland Plan

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (11.53 am): I rise today on an exciting matter of public interest arising out of our time in Mackay with 400 Queenslanders exploring the initiatives of the Queensland Plan. Firstly, I would like to congratulate the Premier on his forward thinking in giving the community of Queensland a voice and the opportunity to be part of the Queensland's 30-year plan. It shows great vision and it is totally inclusive of all sectors. An important part of that is that all members in this House—all party members, Independents et cetera—should be pushing this Queensland Plan on a bipartisan basis. To do that we have to give everyone in Queensland the opportunity to have input into this 30-year plan.

As part of that, the Deputy Mayor of the Gold Coast, Councillor Donna Gates; Mr John Witheriff, the Managing Partner of Minter Ellison on the Gold Coast and also the Chairman of the Gold Coast Suns and the Chairman of GoldLinQ—the Gold Coast Rapid Transit Project—along with Peter Gleeson, the Editor of the *Gold Coast Bulletin*; and I came together on the weekend to have a fantastic Queensland Plan stand at the Gold Coast Suns versus the Western Bulldogs game at Metricon Stadium.

A government member: The Suns won.

Mr STEVENS: And the Suns won. I take the interjection from the good minister. The Suns did really well. As a matter of fact, the Suns sit higher on the AFL ladder at this current time than the Brisbane Lions. So, for a very young team with a lot of young players, we congratulate the Suns on their wonderful contribution to date. And there will be an AFL premiership coming to the Gold Coast in a year or two!

I would certainly like to thank John, Donna and Peter for their support for this initiative. It was a great opportunity to bring together people who are interested in participating in Queensland's future and a great example of state and local governments, along with Metricon Stadium and our No. 1 AFL Gold Coast Suns, coming together to promote the Premier's great initiative of a vision for Queensland for the next 30 years. And what better place to access people to talk about their future—all those children and some of the 13,000 fans who turned up to the game, some of them barracking for the Dogs unfortunately, but who turned up to watch the Gold Coast Suns win handsomely at Metricon Stadium.

We put out Queensland Plan banners and tables and we had a tent with flyers and balloons and that made an exciting Gold Coast experience pre game. As I stood outside the booth, people came up to me and asked, 'What is the Queensland Plan about? What are you telling us now?' I was very pleased to be able to say to them, 'As a politician, I am not telling you anything. What I am looking forward to is your input into the Queensland Plan.' Particularly to the mums and dads who came up with little kids, I said, 'It is important that you put your views forward on how your children would like to see Queensland in 30 years and how you see that we might be able to achieve that.'

The six questions were available there on the day—the major areas being sharing and caring and health and how do we turn ‘me’ into ‘we’ and all those issues that were raised at the summit on the Queensland Plan—and we gave an opportunity for that great cross-section of Gold Coasters to contribute to the Queensland Plan.

It is very important that the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, for instance, took it on board and put a good spread in the paper to promote it. The Editor of the *Gold Coast Bulletin* understands that this is about Queensland being a better place to live over the next 30 years. It is not a place to score cheap political points. It is a genuine effort in terms of consultation just as it is going out into the schools for input and feedback from the schoolchildren. What better place and what more important place than a school environment for children to have their say about they want their future to be. I am sure teachers will deal with it in the impartial manner that is expected of them through the school system. There will be no political tint on this whatsoever.

I implore all members to take on board the Queensland Plan. The minister, Andrew Powell, in charge of promoting the Queensland Plan has done a wonderful job. I congratulate him. I certainly implore all members of the House right across-the-board to take every opportunity to promote the Queensland Plan and to give opportunities for the Queensland public to have input into this very, very important project.