




Speech By  
**Ray Stevens**

**MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Broadbeach Jazz Festival; Gold Coast, Beaches**

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (2.35 pm): It is with great delight that I inform the House of the fabulously successful Broadbeach Jazz Festival which brought over 20,000 visitors to the area last weekend and enhanced Broadbeach's reputation for being the family entertainment capital of Australia's capital for tourism—the glamorous, glitzy and glorious Gold Coast! I congratulate Jan McCormick from Broadbeach Alliance and the Gold Coast City Council for supporting this outstanding community event to turn the weekend into another Gold Coast event spectacular. More importantly, visitors to Broadie would now know that the world famous Gold Coast beaches are back with heaps, stacks and piles of sand for everyone to lay on, sunbake on, kick a footy on, jog on or just walk on to enjoy the magnificent vista and unequalled 42 kilometres of golden sand filled beaches.

Following constant media reporting of the 'beach' part missing from the good electorate of Mermaid Beach, I can confirm following my Sunday morning bike ride from Broadie to Burleigh that the beaches are back to their sparkling best and the Gold Coast is ready to welcome tourists from all over Australia and the world to enjoy the ultimate beach paradise called Gold Coast City. Sure there are some graded banks to negotiate to the beach areas at Mermaid, Miami and Broadie, but the overwhelming conclusion that can only be drawn by personally witnessing thousands and thousands of holiday-makers frolicking on our beaches is that negativity about our Gold Coast beaches is now officially dead and buried and positivity about our No. 1 tourism asset—that is, our beaches—is definitely the only news story in town.

We have enjoyed a real boost in national tourism figures on the Gold Coast and now, with a weakening Australian dollar, it is to be hoped the international tourists will join the increasing flock of tourists heading to the Gold Coast beaches that are, as we know, famous for fun. The Gold Coast City Council and Mayor Tate are getting on with the job of replenishing the sand on the beaches, aided and abetted by the Gold Coast Waterways Authority, a state government funded organisation. We all love and are proud of our Gold Coast City beaches and our respective responsibilities in ensuring the beaches are maintained in pristine condition and that every tourist throughout the world is given the opportunity to enjoy our wonderful beach experience is central to good government for our community. As the member for Mermaid Beach I feel absolutely blessed to represent one of the most iconic destinations in the world and at every stage I will protect, enhance and defend its reputation without fear or influence or even succumbing to outside pressures.