



Speech By  
**Ray Stevens**


**MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH**

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**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Criminal Motorcycle Gangs**

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (11.41 am): I rise in the House today as the member for Mermaid Beach, whose parliamentary office is in the middle of Broadbeach not 200 metres from the scene of one of the most disgusting displays of bikie arrogance and disregard for the laws of our state and country one could ever imagine. The siege that took place between the Bandidos bikies and the police is horribly reminiscent of a B-grade *Mad Max* movie and would be the stuff of a cheap American gangster novel if it were not for the sad fact that it was real. Men, women and children cowering in the dining and entertainment precinct of one of the most popular family destinations of Australia's favourite playground, the Gold Coast, is not the stuff for tourism promotional advertising.

I have risen in this House on nine occasions previously to highlight the proliferation of these criminal bikie gang rogue elements on the Gold Coast and the proof was brazenly there for all to see nationally on the night of Friday, 27 September. Police outnumbered and screaming for assistance as threatening criminals circled their prey trying to ride roughshod over our only form of defence against these murderous, emboldened thugs is a picture I sadly recount. This scenario is the culmination of criminal bikie gang wars over money, drugs and lucrative business territory on the Gold Coast that must be brought to an immediate halt.

Premier Campbell Newman has defiantly drawn the line in the Gold Coast sand to kill off this outlandish criminal behaviour once and for all. His personal commitment to me and the eight other Gold Coast members of the LNP is that he will not stop his dedication to this essential primary law-and-order task until this criminal network and behaviour is eradicated. So bikies beware and be on your bikes out of Queensland while you still have the money to cut and run.

This government is serious about protecting its people and its reputation. Our mission is totally juxtaposed to the intent of the criminal bikie gangs. There can only be one winner in this war and the Newman government has the legislative power, taxpayers' money and the will of the Queensland people behind it to rid Queensland of this bikie scourge. So let the message be very clear to the infamous 'one percenters' of Mermaid Beach and Broadbeach: 'Get out now while you can. Sell your dodgy business fronts, forget your lucrative drug distribution outlets and flog off your ill-gotten real estate through unexplained wealth, because in a very short while when necessary legislation is passed you will not be able to. If there is half a brain in those beefed-up, steroid bloated, tattooed bodies, you should take your money and run now from Queensland back to whichever state you came from.'

The Gold Coast may be a wonderful place to work, play and relax in, but it does not want bikies as part of the social scene. And it does not matter what highly-paid-by-drug-money lawyers and barristers posing as civil libertarians might say about the so-called rights of criminal bikie club

members, the other 99 per cent of the community do not want them carrying out their intimidating crime-centric behaviour in our communities and this Newman government is committed to restoring law and order to the expectation of Queenslanders.

I congratulate the police minister, Jack Dempsey, and our forthright Attorney-General, Jarrod Bleijie, on their immediate and forceful response to the unprecedented mob display by bikies in Broadbeach. Actions speak louder than words and it is the actions of these men, along with the Premier, that will bring an end to this violent, outrageous behaviour displayed by these bikies in complete disregard for the people of the Gold Coast and Queensland.

I welcome the commitment by the Australian Federal Police under the new Tony Abbott led coalition government to join the fight against these tattooed, bike-riding criminal organisations. I would suggest that in any review of the Crime and Misconduct Commission charter of operations strong emphasis of investigation by that body with its wide-ranging investigative powers should be co-opted to join the fight against these outlaws of society. Its focus should be on the money channels of the bikie organisations as that is the root cause of all of the violence and intimidation that is the hallmark of these unsavoury groups.

I would suggest also that a regular night-time patrol of sniffer dogs across the Gold Coast entertainment precincts would cut down the illegal drug trade and reduce the cash flow of these bikie gangs. And driver's licence cancellation at any and every opportunity would deprive them of their bikie gang duty to take part in compulsory patch rides to demonstrate their allegiance. These bikie gangs have brought this determination for their eradication on themselves by their disgraceful behaviour and disregard for the peaceful rights of the Gold Coast community and there should be no misplaced sympathy for their plight by self-serving bikie acolytes and associates.