




Speech By  
**Ray Stevens**

**MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 October 2013

**MOTION: SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS; VACANCY IN SENATE OF  
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA**

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (11.40 am): To quickly wind up this matter, this motion has the support of the LNP, the people entrusted to replace Senator Barnaby Joyce with another representative. The LNP has picked Mr Barry O’Sullivan. He is our nominee. He will be the senator. Mr Barry O’Sullivan agrees with this. There is no plot, despite the member for Condamine just rabbiting on about that. This is being done with Mr Barry O’Sullivan’s agreement in order to allow time to clear the matters from the CMC. As members would know, we do not direct when the CMC finalises the matters they are interested in looking into. We do not dare go anywhere near that course of justice.

What we are doing here clearly—and it has the support of all those people—is giving time for the matters to be cleared so that this House can go forward and celebrate the Premier’s nomination of Mr Barry O’Sullivan as the replacement senator in Canberra. That will be a very great day. Mr O’Sullivan is looking forward to that day. According to the presumption of innocence, he is absolutely innocent of anything at this point. Whilst there is a CMC matter to be looked at and it is relevant to Mr O’Sullivan, he himself agrees with the Premier’s direction that this matter should be adjourned. I find it incredibly hypocritical for the opposition to talk about voting against this motion; they will be voting against what we want to do with our nomination, which has the agreement of the Senate nominee himself and our party.