




Speech By
Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENTS

Gold Coast Airport

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (2.30 pm): I bring to the House's attention today the proposed aeroplane landing system changes that the representatives from the Gold Coast Airport presented to me recently as a firm proposal going out to public consultation shortly. The Gold Coast Airport at Coolangatta has gone from strength to strength and is the fastest growing airport in Australia and has the status as the fourth busiest international airport in the country. Mr Paul Donovan, the Gold Coast Airport general manager, briefed me on the potential need to utilise the proposed instrument landing system for international jet services landing. This will be jointly implemented by the Gold Coast Airport and Airservices Australia. Approximately five per cent of all aircraft landings will use this new ILS system on a permanent basis throughout the year.

The instrument landing system will mean a change in the flight path of the ever-increasing aircraft traffic straight over my electorate of Mermaid Beach and adjoining electorates of Burleigh and Surfers Paradise. I totally understand the importance of the usage of this system during inclement weather to ensure planes are not diverted to Brisbane or, worse still, cancelled altogether. But when 300 days out of 365 days a year the Gold Coast and my electorate have glorious sunshine, this ILS system should have limited usage and be used only in times of bad weather requiring an ILS assisted landing.

The visual omnirange system currently in use is a very high frequency navigation aid which operates line of sight reception. With the increase in commercial aircraft to the Gold Coast, which has been significant with the restoration of the Gold Coast as an international tourism destination by the Newman LNP government, I believe the need for the instrument landing system in fine weather is not needed. The pain of noise inflicted on local residents by aircraft for no sensible reason when not necessary is an impediment that no resident should have to bear.

As legislation for airport operations and improvement lies with the federal government in consultation with CASA, I have been lobbying my federal counterparts—the member for Moncrieff and the member for MacPherson—to assist in a reasonable outcome and have voiced my concerns because residents from Surfers Paradise right down the coast to Burleigh will have the potential to be affected by the change in the flight paths that will come in over land rather than an ocean approach to prepare for landing. This route will only get busier over the years ahead as more and more international flights come from Asia. Instead of changing the system completely to the instrument landing system, a combination of the ILS and the current system would reduce the number of aircraft that would have to fly over residential areas of the Gold Coast. It is that simple.

The Gold Coast Airport has indicated it will be conducting a consultation process. I urge all residents to put forward their thoughts and concerns and be part of the process for a successful outcome for all. There is a simple solution that the ILS gets used in inclement weather. We have enormous amounts of weather forecasting et cetera. For every other opportunity the ILS should not be used and the normal VOR system should be in place.