



Speech By **Ray Stevens**

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENTS

Criminal Motorcycle Gangs

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (3.48 pm): In the House today I put on record my appreciation of the fantastic work that the Premier, the Attorney-General and the Minister for Police have done in successfully eradicating from our fabulous Gold Coast the scum of the underworld of criminal bikie organisations. It is an honour to be part of a government that acts on its word and delivers positive outcomes for the communities we live in. It may not have resonated well in the leafy suburbs of Brisbane where leftie judges and lawyers hang out and bikers are not as visible, but it has addressed a blatant criminal bikie gang problem on the Gold Coast. For the Goldie and my Mermaid Beach electorate, it is a great thing. Well done, Campbell Newman! You have changed the face of the Gold Coast. With these tough new laws you have created a much safer community.

I know for a fact, from the enormous feedback from our communities on the Gold Coast, that they are right behind us. Representatives from the business community have come up to me and said how the environment has improved, particularly in the tourism sector. Customers are coming back to businesses without fear of violent vengeful retaliation by members of criminal bikie organisations lurking around, threatening and intimidating people. Even the general public is pleased with the new laws. People come up to me on a regard basis to say how good things are now. The negative media that has stirred around these changes in the legislation does not reflect the general community's positive support for the government's stronger laws on the issue.

Yes they are tough laws, but they had to be introduced to try curb this behaviour and remove these criminals off our streets. These criminal bikies are murderers, arsonists, stand over men and drug dealers. To me there are no laws too tough to deal with these one per cent rejects of society.

In my electorate of Mermaid Beach the streets are now safer. With the stronger police presence businesses are feeling less threatened and our residential communities are going about their business feeling secure from these thugs who believe it is their right to engage in illegal activity to build their criminal organisations and networks, with innocent people getting caught in the crossfire and becoming victims of their gang related violence. These criminal gangs are moving out of our neighbourhoods and businesses and moving to New South Wales. Good luck to Barry O'Farrell.

As a Gold Coast devotee and long-term public advocate for the city, I would like to thank the Premier for taking a stand and standing up to these undesirable criminals who engage in criminal activity behind so-called legitimate businesses. A special thanks to Task Force Takeback and all the dedicated police on the Gold Coast who put their lives on the line every day to fight and catch these members of criminal bikie organisations and utilise the stronger government legislation to put these criminals behind bars where they so rightly belong. Well done Campbell Newman!