




Speech By
Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

Record of Proceedings, 4 March 2014

MOTION: NEWMAN GOVERNMENT, ANTICRIME GANG LAWS

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (6.12 pm): As the member for Mermaid Beach, where much of this criminal bikie gang activity was taking place—in fact, the police advise me that there are 43 so-called legitimate businesses with bikie contacts in that particular area alone—and as my electorate office is barely 200 metres from the restaurant where the infamous criminal bikie siege took place on 27 September last year, I can assure all members of this House and, indeed, the Queensland public at large that the VLAD laws and the police crackdown on criminal bike gang members using the Newman government legislation, which was effectively worked up by the Attorney-General, is working, is effective and is only affecting criminal gang bike riders, and there has been a visible clearance of those undesirable one per cent social outcasts from the streets of the Gold Coast, and that is a fact. When on the streets of Broadbeach, enormous numbers of people—people I do not know—have walked up to me to say, ‘Tell Newman to keep going with those bikie laws.’ That is despite what media outlets have been reporting due to the cleverly orchestrated public relations campaign funded to the tune of thousands and thousands of dollars by criminal organisations that have gained their money and their funding through drug dealing, debt collecting, standover tactics and violent protection rackets.

As there are no Labor members on the Gold Coast, they would not be aware of the grisly problem that was facing police and the public. I have pointed that out to them on many occasions. As the member for Mermaid Beach and Robina in opposition, nine times I raised this matter and nine times they ignored it. They did not do anything about it. Labor’s half-baked solution was its failed criminal organisation motorcycle gang legislation, which resulted in no arrests, no convictions and no effect on the many criminal bikie associations running rampant in the Broadbeach-Mermaid Beach area. Those associations were responsible for shooting up buildings, murder, drug laboratories and the tragic shooting of an innocent bystander in the Robina Town Centre when two ugly miscreants of our society faced off in a retail store. The Labor Party’s weak-kneed, lily-livered failed attempt at pretending to uphold law and order is the sad indictment of a party that is out of touch and uninformed about community issues and that is run by the union movement that seems to have closely aligned links to these criminal bikie gangs through the construction industry and other militant standover unions that determine who sits opposite in this parliament.

That brings me to the very simple, basic and elementary political question that even the very new Labor member for Redcliffe would understand: if the Newman laws cracking down on these criminal bikie gangs and the VLAD legislation were so bad and horrendous that we should be rewriting them, rescinding them or disenfranchising them, why on earth did the seven dopey dwarfs of the Labor Party’s parliamentary political wing vote for them?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member will withdraw that statement. It is unparliamentary.

Mr STEVENS: I withdraw. Why did the flip-flopping, carping, whining Leader of the Opposition publicly commit that she would not be replacing them if she came into government? I thank the Labor

opposition for bringing this motion before the House tonight so that we have the opportunity to tell the people of the Gold Coast, and my electorate in particular, what a great job the police are doing, what a great law the Attorney-General has brought in and what Labor will fail to do if they ever came back into government. The police presence all over the Broadbeach area and the Gold Coast area is noticeable. They have been very effective and the annual seasonally adjusted crime statistics are falling. When you compare apples with apples, which is the Christmas to Christmas period, you see that the statistics are falling dramatically right across the Gold Coast. All of the hits on drug labs are due to the new legislation that this government has put in place. The people of Mermaid Beach and the Gold Coast are saying to me, 'Thank God for the Newman government; thank God for the LNP'.