




Speech By
Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

Record of Proceedings, 6 March 2014

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Party Houses

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (2.33 pm): I rise in the House today with positive news about party houses, the bane of residents in my Mermaid Beach electorate. I would like to offer my thanks to the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Local Government for their commitment to fixing the problem and proceeding to find a solution to eradicate these out-of-control party houses that have created so much heartache and a living hell for residents of the Gold Coast. This has greatly affected residents in my electorate of Mermaid Beach as well as those right up the Queensland Coast including the Sunshine Coast and the fabulous electorate of Noosa. Members of these communities have been at their wits' end with these short-term accommodation businesses in residential areas and it is the Newman government that will be fixing the problem once and for all. The introduction of clear legislative changes that will give power to local councils to enforce restrictions on short-term holiday letting in residential areas is necessary and not far away from being finalised by this government. Party houses, or short-term holiday letting, in residential areas has been an issue that has been impacting on our usually peaceful communities over years and it took the LNP Newman government to understand the impact it has been having on our communities and the absolute need to find a solution that will be in the best interests of our long-suffering communities.

Many residents have approached my office in absolute frustration seeking a solution and I am so proud to be part of a government that listens to the people and gives them a well thought out and appropriate resolution that is in the best interests of all within in our local communities. Already the local government minister has put in place legislation dealing directly with the noise components of these party houses. The behaviour associated with these party houses is deplorable, offensive and unacceptable. These unruly, intoxicated and aggressive young people who have no inhibitions and act in a way that is totally unacceptable under society's standards have impacted dramatically on people's lives.

I have also been particularly concerned with these party houses taking business away from legitimate long-term accommodation businesses that are positioned in the correct tourism areas of the Gold Coast and have obtained the correct planning approvals through the proper processes. Compensation claims against councils must also be addressed in any new legislative changes, as these lucrative cash cows of these unapproved party house operators will undoubtedly generate substantial litigation if the legislation is not clear and unequivocal.

These have been some of the minefields that have provided challenges to overcoming these party houses through the necessary legislation. New legislative changes through statutory instruments and giving control of these party houses back to each local council in the affected jurisdiction will ensure that these party houses are an issue that is rectified and solved for the betterment of our communities and lifestyle that we all hold dear to our hearts on the fabulous Gold Coast and other associated tourism areas.