




Speech By
Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

Record of Proceedings, 18 March 2014

MOTION: NEWMAN GOVERNMENT

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (6.09 pm): It certainly gives me great pleasure to rise tonight to speak to this motion before the House—a free kick from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition about the Gold Coast city which I love very dearly and have supported greatly. In government it has been an absolute pleasure to achieve for the Gold Coast. We will continue delivering for the Gold Coast.

It is amazing to note that what has had the biggest impact on the Gold Coast is business confidence. That has only arrived since the LNP claimed government in Queensland. It has improved again since the LNP took over as the federal government. The Gold Coast is all about confidence in business development which is born on the back of private enterprise and not the Labor way of force feeding public dollars into it. It is all about private enterprise on the Gold Coast and it has been incredibly successful. This government has helped wherever we could. Along with the Gold Coast City Council we have tipped \$15 million into tourism to get tourism numbers up. As the Minister for Tourism has already said, that has been working fantastically well since the LNP took government.

Queensland is the No. 1 state when it comes to the construction industry. The green shoots are finally there on the Gold Coast now that we have got rid of the Labor dregs out of our city. It is amazing to note that Bashful, Dopey, Grumpy, Sleepy and company over there basically do not even know where the Gold Coast is.

If we run through the recipe of previous Labor luminaries on the Gold Coast, we come across Phil Gray, a former member for Gaven, who sued a poor little old lady—one of his constituents—for saying something horrible about him. Then we have former member for Gaven Robert Poole, the member for Thailand. He was another Labor luminary and absolute genius appointment. We could recycle Peter Lawlor and bring him back at the next election. Old Pete would be really pleased. He lost his ministerial tourism position after five minutes and he was from the Gold Coast. Then we have others such as Di Reilly and Peta-Kaye Croft. They were major contributors to the Gold Coast economy—not.

Just last week I opened the 11th Masters Home Improvement store at Robina with its 12,000 square metres of floor space for shopping. They said to me, 'We are so glad the LNP has cut the red tape for small business and all the licensing fees.' When we think about it we cut stamp duty for those building a home by \$7,000. This may mean that Masters can sell some DIY products around the place. On top of that, we have raised the payroll tax threshold so that small business does not have to pay as much in payroll tax. Labor is all about tax, tax, tax.

We have seen the LNP provide funding to upgrade the Gold Coast Turf Club's member facilities to a magnificent standard. We have seen enormous education initiatives with the introduction of independent public schools. I say well done to the education minister. This measure has been absolutely embraced. It is all about the confidence those on the Gold Coast have in the government which has resulted in positive moves for the Gold Coast economy.

One of the biggest moves the LNP has made—and amazingly the Labor Party actually supported this but has since flip-flopped, which is not amazing—is the removal of criminal bikie gangs from the Gold Coast. One of the biggest things it has delivered is a safe place for tourists to visit and a community where people feel happy and comfortable. That is what the LNP has done. The poor old Labor Party have no idea what position they have on the matter. They flip-flop today and tomorrow. Unfortunately, unless we recycle those fabulous luminaries of Labor on the Gold Coast, such as Phil Gray, Robert Poole, Peter Lawlor, Peta-Kaye Croft, Di Reilly, Christine Smith—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr STEVENS: We have nine members on the Gold Coast. The Gold Coast—

Madam SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Once again, there are too many interjections. While there is often a lot of heat in the debate on the 5.30 motion, the noise is too great and your interjections are not being taken. I call the Leader of the House.

Mr STEVENS: The Gold Coast recognises that the LNP is doing wonderful work for the Gold Coast. It is continuing the preparation for the Commonwealth Games. It is continuing light rail. It is continuing to improve police numbers and reform law and order. We are going to fix the party houses shortly. There will also be a complete review of the body corporate laws. We have the Gold Coast University Hospital reducing waiting lists. This LNP government is loved by those on the Gold Coast.