



Speech By  
**Ray Stevens**


**MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENTS**

**Gold Coast, Rail Infrastructure**

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (2.30 pm): I am pleased to report to the House that I was involved in local government way back in 1992 when the heavy rail to the Gold Coast was proposed, ending at Coolangatta airport. We also looked at its connectivity to the coast at Southport, which was also heavily canvassed. However, that was completely dismissed because of the enormous cost of alignment to Southport, land acquisitions et cetera. So the Labor government at the time moved on with the heavy rail with the destination of Coolangatta. As we have seen over that period Coolangatta has become an impossible target. Unfortunately, heavy rail has only reached as far as Varsity Lakes, and it is wonderful to get the heavy rail there. However, going further than that is proving to be very difficult.

I was also involved in local government when the light rail was proposed to run from Parklands all the way to Coolangatta, again by the Labor government, with the first stage finishing at Broadbeach. Currently, we have light rail from a very limited place to another very limited place. Again, the cost of acquisitions needed to take the light rail all the way down the highway to Coolangatta is going to be very prohibitive. Today, as I rise in the House, I am suggesting a future planning process for something that I have always believed in, which is a connection between the heavy rail and the light rail, connecting the Nerang train station to the Broadbeach light rail station. That would provide an opportunity for people travelling on the heavy rail to Nerang, in other words from Brisbane, to travel right down to the Gold Coast, to Broadbeach, which is a fairly major centre. We have Pacific Fair going ahead with a major \$600 million extension as well as Jupiters Casino. It would also go past Metricon Stadium, which would be ideal for transport. The Commonwealth Games is just around the corner in 2018, and that connection would pick up Metricon Stadium, bringing people from the coastal region to Metricon Stadium as well as connecting with the heavy rail. That is a workable, financially feasible proposal because most of that route is over flood plains, which are not built on and could be easily covered by a raised rail line.

I ask the Gold Coast City Council planners, in conjunction with my state government minister, to put in place an affordable, achievable connection between the heavy rail and the light rail for the years ahead and look to the Nerang-Broadbeach solution to that problem. It would overcome a lot of the difficulties currently being encountered by further northern extensions. It would be a wonderful thing for the Gold Coast, a wonderful thing for the Queensland government and a wonderful thing for the Broadbeach area.