




Speech By
Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

Record of Proceedings, 30 October 2014

MEMBER'S STATEMENTS

Mermaid Beach Electorate, Newman Government Achievements

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (2.38 pm): I rise in the House today to endorse the positive approach of the LNP government, led by Premier Campbell Newman, to delivering on promises and pushing down cost-of-living pressures that is helping the Queensland community right across-the-board and in particular my constituents of Mermaid Beach.

In the area of health we have achieved enormous reductions in hospital waiting lists, made the ramping of ambulances at hospitals a thing of the past, reduced dental waiting lists in many areas and improved health services right across-the-board. This has been due to effective changes in policy direction brought about by the Minister for Health, the Hon. Lawrence Springborg, which focus on patients and patient care rather than piles of paperwork and red tape and delivers direction and ownership of the regional areas back to the local people who know what is best for their communities.

The Treasurer, the Hon. Tim Nicholls, has travelled 20,000 kilometres across the state to ask Queenslanders what they think is the best way to proceed in tackling the \$80 billion Labor debt that was left to us. The consultation process has never been done as well as this before, and I am sure Queenslanders appreciate that our Treasurer has been open, accountable and transparent in putting forward asset leasing to overcome the horrible debt that was left to us by the Labor Party. The outcome is that people do want assets leased, not sold—and that is exactly what we will be doing.

Our cost-of-living initiatives have been delivered—freezing car registration for three years, restoring stamp duty concessions and reducing public transport fees. That is a first for a government to deliver that in this way. I congratulate the Minister for Transport on his absolute dedication to bringing about cheaper and better public transport the way he has done on the Gold Coast with the light-rail trams.

There has also been a reduction in electricity bills. Queenslanders can use the calculator online to work out the savings they will make—an average of \$577 over five years. That is due to the excellent efforts of Minister McArdle in attacking these very important problems affecting Mermaid Beach residents and all Queenslanders. There is also \$3.4 billion to come, should the asset leasing be endorsed by the people of Queensland some time next year—in March perhaps—to a cost-of-living fund which will help all Queenslanders and drive the cost of living down.

In the area of law and order, the VLAD laws have cleaned up our communities, in particular my areas of Mermaid Beach and Broadbeach. The party house legislation has been an enormous success already, with people getting out of that abhorrent practice already. We are looking forward to those in residential areas being able to live in peace and harmony.