



Speech By  
**Ray Stevens**


**MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH**

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Record of Proceedings, 25 November 2014

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Newman, Mr C**

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (12.30 pm): Being in this House for almost the last three years in government has given me a wonderful close perspective of a bloke I really did not know that well before I entered the 54th Parliament. I knew he was the former Lord Mayor of Brisbane. I knew he had a reputation for being a no-nonsense, get-things-done type, military trained, grain industry executive. And I knew he did have a lovely wife and family. I knew one of the teachers at his girls' school who told me what a great dad and family man he was. So I had reasonably high expectations of this bloke they were touting as 'Can-do' Campbell Newman. I did not know if he could transpose from local government to state government seamlessly, as for my own part I had found the adversarial nature of state parliament quite juxtaposed to my local government role where everyone was heading in the same direction with the same information only with different views on how to get there. How amazed have I been! Not only was Premier Campbell Newman prepared for state politics, he has far, far exceeded any performer that I have seen in this House, and that includes the twisting, back-flipping, toothy grinned, self-proclaimed media tart, Peter Beattie, who laid unenviable failed financial foundations for Anna Bligh's spectacular demise in a record defeat at the 2012 election.

To me, and what should be important to all Queenslanders, he is no longer just the Can-do Campbell Newman, which suggests sentiment of promise and expectations. Over the last almost three years he has shown Queenslanders, and particularly my Gold Coasters, he is now the Can-did Campbell Newman of Queensland politics. 'Candid' is defined in the dictionary as truthful, straightforward and frank, and just ask any of the cabinet ministers who have slackened at their task throughout the term if that is not the case. He is a man who has achieved very many positives for the Queensland people in a relatively short space of time of the 54th parliament.

'Can-did' Campbell did fix the ailing health system to an enormous degree, with an 18 per cent increase in budget spending, dental waiting lists drastically reduced, ambulance ramping consigned to a thing of the past, operation waiting lists spectacularly reduced and fairness and equity restored to doctors and nurses pay with a great lift in nurses' remuneration which is now paid on time. Local hospital boards act locally and respond with local knowledge, giving better outcomes for local health issues. Can-did Campbell did fix the education system, with schools receiving an 11 per cent increase in funding, with much of that going to school building improvements, upgrading school facilities, more teacher aides and an extremely sought-after private public school innovation which delivered responsibility, accountability and relevancy to the direction of school principals who are best placed to understand the nuances of individual schools from all the areas across Queensland. Can-did Campbell did fix the criminal outlaw bkie gang problem, which was particularly evident on the Gold Coast, and his overall commitment to law and order through 800 new police, tougher sentencing laws for demonstrably outcast criminals in our society and serious penalties and correction for youth crime have been overwhelmingly endorsed by all I have spoken to who want a better Queensland. Who cares what scraps individual members of the judiciary are fighting over, just as who cares what scraps

of entitlement individual politicians might fight over, as long as Queenslanders can have faith in the Queensland judicial and crime fighting systems—and they can. Can-did Campbell did cut the red tape and green tape across Queensland so that Queensland businesses can get on with work and create more jobs for Queenslanders, with new resource industry approvals for mining jobs, new construction industry approvals for the building industry, new tourism industry approvals and red-tape reduction for new tourism jobs and new agricultural jobs in a sector that badly needed support and green-tape reduction.

A new man and a new government have kick-started Queensland business again and Can-did Campbell has led from the front. I cannot tell members how proud I am to have served in this Can-did Campbell Newman LNP government and how much I believe we have achieved for Queenslanders in what has been a relatively short space of time. As Mermaid Beach residents and Queenslanders head towards Christmas, I am delighted to say that we have delivered on many of our promises. I wish everyone a merry Christmas.