



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Gold Coast Airport, Instrument Landing System

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (12.54 pm): I rise to alert Gold Coast residents to the real facts in relation to the instrument landing system, the ILS, proposed by Gold Coast Airport Pty Ltd, a privately listed company, seeking to maximise its profits by installing an outdated technology landing system that will impose a permanent, regular flight path over Gold Coast houses where none currently exists. The Gold Coast Airport has purported to sell this highly intrusive flight plan as being necessary to avoid flight cancellations and aircraft diversions when I suspect the real reason is to expand their market share capacity to Asian airlines that only have and only wish to use the outdated technology of ILS capacity in their aircraft. We support and encourage the Gold Coast Airport's efforts to bring more Asian airline passengers to the Gold Coast, but not at the cost of destroying the peace and tranquillity of residential areas by burdening them with aircraft noise where none previously existed.

There is a more modern satellite technology available now called RNP, required navigational performance, procedures which will maintain the current flight paths over the ocean. Most of the domestic carriers, which account for 80 per cent of flights into the Gold Coast, are equipped with this more modern technology and are using it now. As well as this crucial statistic, only two-thirds of all aircraft landing at Gold Coast Airport occur on north-south runway 14, which is the only runway proposed for the outdated ILS system. The other one-third land on south-north runway 32. Without an ILS on that runway there will still be the occasional diversion and cancellation.

Why anyone would jeopardise the serene tranquillity of Gold Coast suburbs with aircraft noise in the 21st century when technology is improving daily is beyond comprehension. Jetstar were approved for RNP landings in November 2014 and Virgin were approved in January 2015. So we will see a lessening of diversions and cancellations with these domestic fliers using the RNP technology.

Make no mistake, once a flight path has been approved over residential suburbs, such as Broadbeach Waters, Mermaid Beach and Nobby Beach, it is nigh on impossible to remove that flight path when the noise eventually becomes unbearable. This is guaranteed to occur with aircraft landings expected to double at the Gold Coast Airport from the current 35,000 per annum over the next 15 years. To put that into perspective, just 15 years ago Sydney held the Olympic Games. That is still fresh in our minds. So it is not too far away at all.

I am highlighting this flawed proposal now so that future residents will not be able to point the finger and say, 'We did not know. We were not warned.' It is imperative that residents shout from the rooftops—a cynic might also say shout now while they can still be heard—that they do not want this unnecessary noise burden placed over their homes. Submissions on this ILS proposal close on 13 July. Unless the community activates itself during this important community consultation period, the very real fear is that this new 18-kilometre flight path over suburban Gold Coast homes will

become a reality. The federal member for Moncrieff, Mr Steve Ciobo, has joined with me in opposing this misguided attempt at technological subterfuge as has the local councillor, Councillor Paul Taylor, on behalf of his residents of the Gold Coast City Council.

The ILS is an outdated technological answer to a problem that has been largely solved by the recent introduction of the RNP assisted landing satellite technology. To inflict a flight path over a residential community that is not needed or warranted is a great abrogation of this major Gold Coast corporate citizen's corporate responsibility to the Gold Coast community.

The short-term gain of more Asian ILS equipped airlines boosting airport visitor numbers and airport bottom line financial returns should not come at the expense of people's healthy living and an aircraft noise free environment. I have not even mentioned the potential financial loss on most people's major financial investment—their home—when it becomes known their home is under a new flight path. I am calling on the Gold Coast Airport to immediately withdraw its irresponsible proposal for yesterday's technology and concentrate on wooing more passengers under the RNP system.