




Speech By
Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

Record of Proceedings, 31 August 2016

ADJOURNMENT

Short-Term Holiday Letting

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (11.09 pm): I understand that the Gold Coast City Council is considering ill-thought-out recommendations from its planning department to allow short-term letting of residential properties to be self-assessed under its planning scheme. This would, in effect, roll back the effective protections in place that I and many Gold Coast and Mermaid Beach constituents campaigned long and hard to get, with the temporary local planning instrument, or TLPI—party houses—engaged under the state planning legislation put in place by the Newman government. I thank the member for Callide, who very strongly supported this planning legislation which restored peace to the wonderful communities on the Gold Coast.

In essence, the proposal would allow for a self-assessment process to be introduced on short-term accommodation so an individual owner can self-assess whether their property is able to be let as a short-term accommodation rental—a potential party house. It is obvious to my mind that of course they would find them suitable for making a quick buck at the cost of local amenity, enjoyment and the comfort which Gold Coast residents could achieve in their own homes. Many Mermaid Beach constituents have recently approached me to tell me how lovely it was that their teenage children could now use their backyard in safety without fear of being harassed by drunken partygoers. I can only imagine the shock and dismay they are now feeling after hearing of this irresponsible and reckless plan.

The issue has been of constant concern to communities in the Broadbeach Waters, Mermaid Waters and Clear Island Waters suburbs for over 10 years as they bore the brunt of regular unruly, unacceptable behaviours exhibited at party houses, with every resident having their own uniquely horrifying experience. The national publicity given to these party houses was incredibly damaging for the family-friendly image of the Gold Coast and wreaked unbearable unpleasantness on my constituents in otherwise normally quiet residential communities.

It was the introduction of the TLPI in May 2015, brought about by clear legislative changes giving powers to local councils to enforce restrictions on short-term holiday letting businesses in residential areas, which brought about the eradication of the unapproved, abhorrent party houses—party houses that have been impacting residents for years. It is with those residents in mind that I implore the Gold Coast City Council to reject this plan and reassure residents that their peaceful, family-friendly Gold Coast lifestyle will be preserved.