




Speech By
Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

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LIQUOR AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (4.55 pm): I rise to speak on behalf of Mermaid Beach residents on the Liquor and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, now more commonly called the ‘saving Grace bill’. My area of Mermaid Beach is within a kilometre of the Broadbeach nightclub precinct, which is one of the wonderful nightclub precincts on the Gold Coast. Under the Safe Night Out Strategy we have had a very successful operation in that area. The LNP allocated extra funding to the police under the Safe Night Out Strategy and those areas have been managed particularly well.

The fact that within around 12 months we are back in this House fixing up the legislation put through by the Palaszczuk Labor government is symptomatic of a government that does not know how to govern. This parliament is a very important place. To bring legislation in here that is faulty, politically motivated, totally out of touch with a solution to the problem and then within 12 months be back in here again doing a backflip to where the opposition’s policy was 12 months ago is a total embarrassment for a government that does not know how to govern.

If those opposite took notice of the LNP policies in the first place they would not be in this highly embarrassing situation today. I draw an analogy with the LNP criminal bikie gang laws that were adopted by the South Australian Labor government. They worked really well. What I am seeing nightly on the news is the fact that the ice dealers and the criminal bikie gangs are back in town on the Gold Coast. Thank you very much, Labor members! Members need to visit the Gold Coast—go and see Murray Watt—to understand the local problems that we have on the Gold Coast with these criminal gangs. It is a fertile area for them to deliver their heinous product.

Unfortunately we will be back in here winding back the criminal bikie gang laws that were working and that the police supported. Labor members, for political motivation and paying off whoever were pulling the strings in the matter, rolled over successful legislation in this House. We are seeing the same thing in this backflip of monumental proportions—in terms of degree of difficulty it is a 9.9. The minister has come in here and embarrassed the member for Stafford in terms of his *raison d’être* for entering politics in the first place, embarrassed her government and embarrassed this House by bringing in legislation and within 12 months saying, ‘We have got that wrong. Let us redo it.’ We might see the end of Gracie or the end of other members over there.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr STEVENS: I do not know who you are referring to there, member. They may be looking at political salvation with the realisation that the legislation that they were proposing would get a lot of young voters and people who enjoy those night-life and entertainment centres well and truly off side; on top of other matters that are raising their heads in the regions, such as vast unemployment and the outrageous levels of crime in those areas that are run by the Labor Party members in the north—Townsville in particular springs to mind.

It is a total embarrassment that this government has to prostrate itself on the floor of parliament and say, ‘We got it wrong just 12 months ago’. All LNP members have highlighted the issues well, particularly the former attorney-general and member for Kawana. Today, we are operating under the

Labor laws. The Labor laws that were introduced in February are now operating. If the government is not enforcing those laws, it is acting illegally. The government has laws in place and, until this bill is passed—and obviously we will support the bill, because it was our idea in the first place—and the legislation is gazetted, we are operating under the Labor laws of just 12 months ago. How embarrassing is that?

This is classic Labor. It mucked up by losing Queensland's AAA credit rating and we will have to work for a lot of years to try to get it back. In terms of running this state, the mismanagement of Labor knows no bounds. It is a total embarrassment. In my view, the election cannot come quickly enough. Dancing to the tune of their union master puppeteers, in two years all they have done is wind back good and sustainable LNP legislation. Within two years they have unwound the bikie laws and they have mucked up the liquor legislation and the industrial relations laws. In terms of operating this state, they are the absolute passion fingers as they muck up everything they touch.

When these laws are passed, at least the people of Mermaid Beach will have something that is workable. Hopefully, we will never again see the absolute aberration that is the legislation that was introduced by the Labor Party.