




Speech By
Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

Record of Proceedings, 6 September 2017

ADJOURNMENT

Gold Coast Highway, Median Fence

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (10.49 pm): I rise to bring to the attention of the House the dismal state of the Gold Coast Highway median fence in the Mermaid Beach electorate. I table the following images showing its terrible state within a two-kilometre radius of my electorate office.

Tabled paper: Bundle of photographs regarding a Gold Coast Highway dividing fence in the Mermaid Beach electorate [\[1591\]](#).

I would think that the Gold Coast Highway median fence, which is an important safety measure for those who use the Gold Coast Highway because it ensures pedestrians cross at nominated safe traffic crossing locations, would receive immediate attention from the Department of Transport and Main Roads upon their initial identification of the flaws inherent in their current form. However, I have spoken to the Department of Transport and Main Roads on multiple occasions to raise this serious safety concern but no action has been taken. I also table my letter in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 9 June 2017, from the member for Mermaid Beach, Mr Ray Stevens MP, to the Regional Director (South Coast), Department of Transport and Main Roads, Mr Paul Noonan, regarding a Gold Coast Highway dividing fence in the Mermaid Beach electorate [\[1592\]](#).

I cannot understand their recalcitrant attitude in not effecting its replacement as the highest priority. As a corroded fence with missing panels and leaning areas that you can just jaywalk through with ease, this would not suit the Gold Coast Highway median fence purpose when it was first put in place. Safety wise, in its current state—with the gaps, heavy leaning and a clear visual inducement to climb over lower sections of the fence—it is a massive failure. Furthermore, this truly abysmal state of a twisted, leaning, corroded safety fence will be a total embarrassment to a city hosting the most important international event of the decade in Australia early next year. With the multitude of visitors we should expect to the Commonwealth Games during March and April 2018, what impression will we be leaving when their initial introduction to the Gold Coast and its beautiful beaches is an ugly, careworn, ineffective fence?

The local residents planted up this median dividing fence. The businesses were very much against the fence because it would cut off trade for businesses on both sides of the highway. Unfortunately, it had to be put in place for safety measures. The department itself said that the original tender it accepted was flawed. From day one, it has been a flawed median fence that was put in place on the highway. I cannot believe that our local officers down there have recognised how bad the fence is but have not taken steps to replace that fencing. It is tilted. It makes the Gaza Strip fencing look like paradise. They can do a far better job coming into the Commonwealth Games.

This is not a major job and it is not a major issue, but it is visually major in the electorate. I hope immediate measures are taken. The businesses are all complaining about it and the people in my electorate are complaining about it. It is high time the Department of Transport and Main Roads took remedial action.