




Speech By
Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

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ADJOURNMENT

Magic Millions

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (9.05 pm): In a little over two months from now one of the world's great tourism and sporting events will be held in Queensland on the fabulous Gold Coast. Yes, I am talking about the Magic Millions sales and racing week where princes, sheiks, rich-listers, and A-listers all head to the Gold Coast from around the world for Australia's second greatest horseracing carnival behind only the Melbourne Cup in recognition, attraction and enjoyment. The racecourse is the ultimate venue for the tradie, the partygoer and the horse lover to rub shoulders with the rich and famous on an equal basis, hence its recognition as the sport of kings.

Following on from the LNP's bold move to assist funding to make it a \$10 million race day, the Magic Millions race and sales week has generated fantastic interest and media attention from all over the world. Even in Melbourne during their wonderful Melbourne Cup carnival many participants are talking about how they cannot wait to go up to the Gold Coast in January for the fabulous Magic Millions carnival. Media representatives on free-to-air TV and pay TV are all lavish in their praise of Queensland's premier tourism event. The Magic Millions recognition factor is now through the roof throughout the world, and the quality and quantity of superb thoroughbred horses on offer at the sales are second to none in the world. Champion racehorses, including Australia's latest world champion mare Winx, were sold through the Magic Millions sales ring and have indelibly stamped the event in thoroughbred circles around the world as a 'must do' event. The excitement of the sales ring, where million dollar horses bring a gasp around the arena, and the yelling and screaming of excited race goers as the two-year-olds scamper around the corner into the home straight towards \$1 million in prize money are experiences that are never to be forgotten.

A huge congratulations must go to sales owners Katie Page and Gerry Harvey, who have taken the marketing and delivery of the event to a new world-class level. Of course, the doyen of thoroughbred auctioneering and fitness fanatic David Chester, who runs and swims every morning, has been there all the way lending his unparalleled knowledge and breeding experience in driving the sale ring success. Being on the Gold Coast in January has always been a timeslot made in heaven for tourism and, coupled with magnificent beaches, restaurants and a vibrant nightlife, it all adds up to the magical feeling conjured up by this unique and glorious racing concept.

In the first weeks of January I look forward to welcoming the many thousands of racing aficionados, partygoers and racing tragics to Australia's favourite playground for an incredible week of enjoyment for families on the Gold Coast, and I can assure them that everyone there has at least backed one winner for the week just by being there. South Africa, America, UAE, England, Ireland, France, Japan, China, Singapore, Malaysia, and New Zealand will all provide visitors and spectators to this monumentally valuable Queensland tourism event.