




Speech By
Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

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ADJOURNMENT

Gold Coast, Short-Term Holiday Rentals

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (10.58 pm): I rise in this House, as I have done on numerous occasions, to talk about the proliferation of short-term holiday rentals, commonly known as party houses, that are unfortunately coming back to the Gold Coast after a long hiatus after the LNP government introduced legislation into this House. The issue has been an ongoing concern to my constituents and the broader community of Mermaid Waters, Surfers Paradise, Broadbeach Waters and Clear Island Waters. Local residents have had to put up with antisocial and disruptive activity at all hours of the day and night. This is intolerable for hardworking residents and their families and clearly changes the activity of a quiet residential suburb.

These are businesses that are deliberately being run as short-term holiday rentals and are acting without any council approvals. The internet enables people to run these very lucrative businesses in suburban areas and in many cases without care for the amenity of the neighbours. These properties are in very expensive suburbs close to the entertainment precinct of the Gold Coast and as such are ideal for short-term letting.

It was the introduction of the local area planning instrument in May 2015, brought about by clear legislative changes giving powers to the local councils to enforce restrictions on short-term holiday letting businesses in residential areas, which initially brought about the eradication of the unapproved licentious party houses that have been impacting residents for years with a solution that was in the best interests of suffering communities.

Now we find there is a resurgence in short-term holiday letting on the Gold Coast, in particular since the Commonwealth Games. There were many people making money out of letting houses out through Airbnb, Stayz and other short-term accommodation sites. There was even a public housing tenant who became entrepreneurial over the period to make a little bit of money. This will be a problem for the Gold Coast and other tourist destinations. There is an acceptance of this new form of making money out of suburban houses without approvals. We will see this become a bigger problem. The government needs to address this matter. Quite clearly there will be major ramifications if it does not. We are here to help and assist if there is any movement from the government in these matters.