




Speech By
Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

Record of Proceedings, 28 February 2019

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Mermaid Beach Electorate, Oceanway Proposal

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (2.41 pm): I rise to speak on the Oceanway proposal through my electorate of Mermaid Beach. I note that an early green-leaning council candidate is jumping on the 'Build the Oceanway' bandwagon in my electorate already as a platform for a tilt at a council job after she was rejected in her tilt for a state parliamentarian's job at the previous state election. The candidate has alluded to a Gold Coast City Plan that would see a bikeway/walkway constructed on state government owned land along the front of the beachfront houses in Hedges Avenue and Albatross Avenue in the Mermaid Beach electorate. At a cost of approximately \$22 million at a minimum, this fanciful, vote deceiving exercise being delivered by the candidate via a stall set up on the public footpath/bikeway through Kurrawa Park at Broadbeach is an exercise in delusional, inane public grandstanding by a candidate who has no comprehension, understanding or capacity to deliver on her platform even if she was elected.

The practical, cost-effective and immediately doable solution to extending the Kurrawa Park bikeway/footpath to Nobby Beach from Broadbeach is to incorporate the 1950s-built, narrow-width footpath with the high-speed MAMIL bike track currently designated bikes only—albeit against the one-way traffic in Hedges Avenue—into a joint bikeway/footpath that is similar in status to the three-plus-metre-wide pathway through Kurrawa Park. I have proffered this solution to council officers previously, but a lack of political will on the issue has seen no funding, no planning and no resolution to the issue being placed on the council agenda.

The fact that the current designated Oceanway pathway would have to be built outside the A line for flood and cyclone purposes seems lost on the proponents of the fairyland solution and would most likely be lost in a serious cyclone event on the Gold Coast, as was threatened just this last week. With the ever-increasing patronage of foot traffic, jogging, pram-pushing and bike-meandering traffic joining in a chaotic confluence along Hedges Avenue and Albatross, it is time for a sensible, cost-effective solution to be put in place by Gold Coast City Council before a tragic accident occurs, resulting in death or injury to one of the many users of this highly trafficked popular route.

I do understand that there are concerns by some Hedges Avenue residents about widening the footpath in the front of their homes. However, I am sure that they would much rather an upgraded council owned footpath fronting Hedges Avenue as the alternative to a footpath/bikeway impinging on their ocean front views should a green-leaning candidate get their way following the next council election. The state government is committed to the funding of pedestrian cycleway works as part of its policy pertaining to the implementation of stage 3 of the light rail project, so now is the time to fix the Hedges Avenue hot spot for the betterment of all commuters and to save a life-threatening incident waiting to happen in the very near future.