




Speech By
Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

Record of Proceedings, 3 September 2019

ADJOURNMENT

Crichlow, Cr D

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (7.00 pm): This accolade may come as a surprise to many on the Gold Coast, but I have always been a believer and practitioner of giving credit where credit is due. This councillor of the City of Gold Coast deserves great credit for her long and devoted service to the people of Southport on the fabulous Gold Coast. Councillor Dawn Crichlow has announced that she will not be contesting the March 2020 local government election and it is appropriate that I recognise her long and diligent service to her constituents of the Gold Coast dating back to 1991 before she abdicates her Southport throne. Let me be clear that Dawn and I may not have always seen eye to eye on several issues and, at best, we could be described as having a professional relationship. Dawn's cosy relationship with the press on the Gold Coast led to some heartburn for me when I became mayor of the Gold Coast, but that is history and takes nothing away from her stellar career as a councillor for 28 years.

Dawn's endearing and greatest attribute as a public representative was to understand the feeling or, as Dennis Denuto so aptly put it, the vibe of her constituency. When council bureaucrats made ridiculous and unworkable decisions for Gold Coast residents, Dawn's voice was the loudest and most vocal in voicing protest on behalf of her community. She called a spade a spade and whether it was keeping chickens in a residential area, parking matters in Southport, or the behaviour of hoons in Southport, Dawn was front and centre in leading the charge to right the wrong on behalf of her community. Dawn's constituents recognised that she was their warrior and returned her election after election. I have no doubt that, if she wanted to contest the next election, she would win that too.

However, Councillor Crichlow was not always the goody-two-shoes councillor and certainly got up to her share of vendetta-seeking activity to justify her arguments and political persuasion. Spying on rubbish tip activity in the old Gold Coast City Council area, providing the then mayor with a pet pig for his home on the Isle of Capri, and finessing a freestanding office in Southport, which no other councillor was entitled to at the time, were just some of the antics that meant that Dawn Crichlow was cut from a cloth different from that of most other councillors.

Dawn's greatest legacy is the pursuit of the Southport parklands area as a focal point for community usage on the Gold Coast. The swimming area, the parklands auditorium and outdoor entertainment venue are all a testament to her determination, dedication and longevity in her role. She has left Southport and the Gold Coast a better place to live in. We had a wonderful Gold Coast Show on the Southport parklands area. It has found a great home there. Dawn has seen that area develop over her 28 years as a councillor and she has been a great supporter of that area. Thank you, Dawn, and enjoy your retirement.