




Speech By
Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

Record of Proceedings, 19 September 2019

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (GREAT BARRIER REEF PROTECTION MEASURES) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (12.33 pm): It is my great pleasure to follow the left-wing warrior, the leader of the Labor-Greens alliance from South Brisbane, and her speech about farms that she has probably not even seen, not even visited.

Ms Trad interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member is not in her seat if she wishes to interject.

Mr PEGG: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat and then I will take your point of order. Member, I remind you to use the correct titles for members. That would help the House. Member for South Brisbane, it would help if you were in your seat when you make interjections in future. What is your point of order?

Mr PEGG: Mr Deputy Speaker, that was my point of order—the member was not using correct titles.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Those on my right will cease interjecting.

Mr STEVENS: Quite clearly, this legislation is designed to pick on the whipping boys, the poor old farmers, graziers and those in the agricultural industries. They would have to be living under a rock to not know that the thought police of the left-wing Labor-Green alliance in the Labor Party were not about whipping them to gain popularity in the seats of South-East Queensland.

I will quickly relate a little story of a luncheon I had—it is very relevant to this legislation—with a good fellow called Wayne Goss, who was very, very respected and who was right across all of his subjects. I spoke to Wayne over luncheon about proposing a cableway on the Gold Coast. He said, 'Ray, Skyrail cost me four seats.' We know the famous Skyrail in the member for Cairns' area. He said, 'It cost me four seats, Ray.' He said, 'I don't think the Labor Party is ever going to approve your cableway.' He was right, but I did not know that he was back then. I never worked out back then that the four seats he was talking about were not in Cairns. The four seats were not in Cairns; they were seats such as Mount Ommaney, Maiwar and South Brisbane—all of the greenie seats in Brisbane that they were all keen to hang on to. That is what Wayne Goss said. That is what this government is doing. It is the same with the coal argument. They hate coal in Brisbane and they love coal in Townsville. It is the same thing. In Brisbane we are all for the protection of the Great Barrier Reef, but in Townsville, the home of the reef, we do not hear about it.

It is an absolute embarrassment for the government to use the farmers like the Cox boys—Geoff and David Cox, and I was great mates with their father, Viv—as whipping boys and their excuse to save the Great Barrier Reef. The Great Barrier Reef is wonderful. I am amazed that the member for Cairns

is ruining the tourism industry up there by saying how bad the reef is and how devastated it is, when they should be talking it up and keeping jobs in the tourism industry. That is one of the reasons why this legislation will be opposed and should be opposed. It exposes those on the other side of the House for the Labor-Green left-wing loony alliance that they are, and they should not be running this great state.