



Speech By  
**Ray Stevens**


**MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH**

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Record of Proceedings, 21 May 2020

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Gold Coast, Hooker Boulevard and Gold Coast Highway Intersection; Merrimac State High School**

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (2.56 pm): I bear good news from the kingdom of the Mermaid Beach electorate on the fabulous Gold Coast. The department of transport has confirmed that it intends to close the abhorrent right-turn exit from the Star Casino southbound on to Hooker Boulevard that will eliminate the confusing sets of lights barely 50 metres from the main intersection lights of the Gold Coast Highway and Hooker Boulevard. This intersection has been designated as 'intolerable' by independent assessment under its current configuration. With massive development of a residential nature proposed by Star Casino, imposing thousands more exits to that intersection, the chances of a life-claiming car accident there are 1,000 to one on, in gaming parlance. This set of lights has been a monumental disaster over the years, causing confusion and life-threatening vehicular transgressions of red-light running because of its close proximity to the lights of the Gold Coast Highway and Hooker Boulevard intersection.

The Star Casino island, which has state government approval under state legislation, is subject to state planning directives and was benefited greatly by a new exit on to the Gold Coast Highway for its new development, the Darling. This obviously gives the owners a unique opportunity to reconfigure their ingress and egress strategies for the thousands of extra residents who plan to inhabit the island through the development of five new residential high-rise towers. It is impossible for the current traffic exit arrangements to the island to cope with the massive increase in traffic movement created by this population growth. The intersection of Hooker Boulevard and the Gold Coast Highway needs to be freed up immediately.

I refer to my question on notice to main roads minister Bailey on 19 August last year as to when he was going to fix this deathtrap-in-waiting traffic configuration. His weak reply that intimated it was only driver error and that Queensland police should enforce illegal driver behaviour shows how out of touch he and his Labor government really are on the problems besetting the Gold Coast community. I am glad to see that Department of Transport and Main Roads officers have pledged to fix the problem that Minister Bailey could not see. The closure of this intersection, I am informed, by 30 June is also coupled with other good news from the Hooker Boulevard hotspot area. There is to be an installation of pedestrian crossing lights around 800 metres westward to facilitate the safe crossing of Hooker Boulevard by students alighting at the bus stop and heading to Merrimac high school. I have lobbied for this solution for over 18 months and, again, this potentially life-saving infrastructure will ensure the safety of Merrimac high students.

I also take the opportunity to congratulate Mr Chris Tobin for his excellent carriage of his principal role over many years at Merrimac high. Should the LNP win back government at the upcoming October election, his application for the successful private-public school designation should be the first one approved. I look forward to this small but not insignificant improvement to the Mermaid Beach electorate coming to fruition under my watch shortly.