




Speech By
Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

Record of Proceedings, 18 June 2020

**HEALTH, COMMUNITIES, DISABILITY SERVICES AND DOMESTIC AND
FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION COMMITTEE**

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (3.27 pm): In speaking to the report, I certainly would like to thank the committee for its kind invitation to the local member to attend the inspection of the new facility at the Mermaid Waters ambulance building. The building is an excellent replacement of what was called the Coral Gardens ambulance station. As a matter of fact, in my mayoralty days at the Albert shire—

An honourable member: You were the mayor once?

Mr STEVENS: I was the mayor once. I think I did some sort of opening at Coral Gardens as opposed to what happened after this refurbishment in terms of there being no ribbon-cutting ceremony to which I was invited for a \$4 million wonderful edifice for the community of Mermaid Beach and Mermaid Waters. Unfortunately, they forgot to put me on the invitation list. However, in fact I did open the Q Super Centre, a very successful shopping centre right next door to the ambulance station. The service has done an excellent job in replacing the old Coral Gardens site because it is ideally located. I was pleased to enjoy the tour with members of the ambulance fraternity down there; in fact, I believe the wife of a staff member who has just moved in is a principal at one of my schools.

This is a wonderful facility in Mermaid Waters, which has a large, growing population, and they have done an excellent job in spending that \$4.3 million, as I recall, on that facility, which was much needed because the old Coral Gardens ambulance station was a bit out of the ark, as the professional on the other side would have recognised. The firm that did the architecture, Burling Brown—Ronnie Burling is a great old mate of mine and Darrell Brown—did an excellent job. It is not an easy site, being an entry into the Q Super Centre shopping centre, which I opened, as I just mentioned, when I was mayor. The refurbishment of the facility on that particular site was a difficult job for the architects in terms of egress and ingress for the emergency services, but it has turned out to be an excellent facility in Mermaid Waters.

The good folk from the service rang and asked whether I had any alternative suggestions for the naming of the facility. Whilst the name of 'Ray Stevens' sprang immediately to mind, my recommendation was for the Mermaid Waters Ambulance Station. I think Coral Gardens was in recognition of the original real estate sales in the area—Coral Gardens has a pretty, nice real estate sound—but Mermaid Waters is the suburb that everybody recognises. We now have this magnificent facility there now for, as the chairman of the committee has just alluded to, many years to come.

I congratulate all of the members of the committee on their report into this expenditure of moneys which was well expended in this area, as it is the only station in this report that I can talk to as I have not been to or seen the other station. I greatly appreciated the tour of this facility and I appreciated greatly an invitation whereas it had not been forthcoming previously. I look forward to many years of service of that new building. This was \$4.3 million of taxpayers' money well spent in Mermaid Waters. I look forward to the next \$4.3 million being spent in the Mermaid Beach electorate soon.