



Speech By  
**Ray Stevens**


**MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 September 2021

**MOTION**

**Queensland Border Restrictions**

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (5.45 pm): I cannot believe the hypocrisy I am hearing from the Deputy Premier and those Labor members over there. It was actually Scott Morrison who saved Australia by shutting the international borders, and when he shut the international borders the loudest squealer was the fellow from the federal Labor Party, the one with the big dimple with the forgettable name, who yelled about getting all Australians home. That was the loudest squeal from the Labor Party, 'Bring them home!' Yet this Labor government shut out Queenslanders and put no plan in place to bring them home before they shut the borders with two hours notice. Any moron would put in place a system to bring Queenslanders home—

**Ms PEASE:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. That is unparliamentary language from the member for Mermaid Beach.

**Mr STEVENS:** I withdraw. For this government to lock out Queenslanders is an absolute blight on the intelligence of their organisation in getting ready for a lockdown. They knew a lockdown would be coming; it was a matter of time. With two hours notice down she goes, and Queenslanders are locked out everywhere. I am on the Gold Coast and I get plenty of constituents complaining greatly about their ability to get back to Queensland. These are Queenslanders. They are not from some foreign country; these are Queenslanders who want to come home to the beautiful Mermaid Beach.

I have Chris, Sue, Judith, Marie, Steven, Marilyn, Travis, Stephen, Danny and Rob who are all locked out of our state. How embarrassing is that? I cannot do anything for them because when they go through the health department over there exemptions just do not exist. Except for one thing: I tell them to go to the media because if they go to the media, just like little Memphis, they will have a chance to come home to Queensland. It is an absolute embarrassment. We have 1,000 trucks coming through a day, yet there is no testing for them—

**Mrs Gerber:** They don't even have to be vaccinated!

**Mr STEVENS:** Not even vaccinated—

**Mrs Gerber:** Thanks to the unions!

**Mr STEVENS:** Would you stop her from interjecting, Mr Deputy Speaker?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order, members. Pause the clock. I apologise, I was having trouble seeing who that was interjecting. I was looking.

**Mr STEVENS:** Yet we have Queenslanders locked out of our own state. We are Australians first and Queenslanders second but we cannot get our own people back into our state. Yet if I was the good-looking WAG of a footballer I would be invited in here by the Premier for a photoshoot. Get the lads in! This government has been absolutely incompetent in their methodology of looking after Queenslanders and locking them out of our state.

It just beggars belief that Queenslanders are stopped when we have 30 spin doctors over there. With 57,000 calls, those spin doctors could be trying to get those Queenslanders home. Give them their 1300 number so the spin doctors can save the media from getting those Queenslanders home. There are people like Chris, who was locked in Murwillumbah with no notice and cannot get home. I have Sue, who went down to Melbourne to pick up her son and cannot get home. These are genuine Queensland problems that will not be addressed by this incompetent government which did not put any system in place.

To blame the federal government, which is their easy 'get out of jail free' card is absolutely ridiculous. Without Scott Morrison and that shutting of the borders, we would be like the other countries in the world where there would not be the single-digit numbers that the minister was talking about earlier; there would be thousands and thousands like other countries throughout the world. Scott Morrison did a wonderful job in terms of shutting those borders. The Pfizer was kept back from us because other countries needed it more. These people over there frightened everybody, including me, about getting AstraZeneca. When I realised it was just more rubbish, I went to my GP and got my AstraZeneca.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Pause the clock. Member for Mermaid Beach, I am having trouble hearing your speech over the interjections. You have the call and I ask everyone else to stop interjecting.

**Mr STEVENS:** The mixed messages and the incompetent organisation have led to this terrible situation where we have Queenslanders locked out of their own state. That is absolutely shameful. It is a bad indictment on the government. When those Queenslanders get back, I hope they know which way they are going to vote.