



Speech By  
**Ray Stevens**


**MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 March 2022

**MOTION**

**Queensland Floods**

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (2.45 pm): In speaking to this motion, I acknowledge the tragedy and sorrow as a result of the repeat event of major flooding in Queensland. It is no surprise. It has happened before. It will happen again. On a personal level, my son and his family were caught up in the serious flooding in New South Wales. We are all affected by it in some way. I think it was Albert Einstein who said the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result. Over on the government benches we have the most insane people that you could ever meet in terms of them making no attempt whatsoever to address the recurrent flooding events in Queensland. It will happen again. We do need to address the matter.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Member, I will pull you up there. Part of your previous statements were unparliamentary. I ask you to withdraw.

**Mr STEVENS:** I withdraw. In terms of history, the Labor Party is littered with mistakes in relation to water, dams and floods. This motion says that the House is very sorry that it has happened, but it will happen again. If we go back to 1974, I am reliably informed that Wolffdene Dam was going to be built before Wivenhoe Dam. Following the 1974 floods in Brisbane, Joh Bjelke-Petersen, the premier of the day, brought the building of Wivenhoe Dam forward to help Brisbane with flood mitigation and prevention for future rain events. They will come again. We will get heavy downpours.

I note the Premier used climate change as her excuse for not communicating better flood information to the people of Brisbane. The fact of the matter is there needs to be communication and mitigation efforts. I believe Wivenhoe Dam catchment was 175 per cent full. Wolffdene Dam would have saved those Logan areas if it had been built.

**Mr POWER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There was much less flooding on the Albert River. The member is misleading the House.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** That is not a point of order.

**Mr STEVENS:** The Wolffdene Dam would have helped in terms of mitigation for the Logan River but the Goss Labor government and the chief of staff to Wayne Goss, Kevin Rudd, stopped it. It is all over the Labor Party's DNA because they listen to their mates the Greens. The Greens do not want a dam built in Queensland. Those opposite cannot win an election without Greens preferences. If the Greens say that they are not doing something then the lefties over there will not be doing it. That is why we do not have any dams.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. I would ask all members to come to order. If it continues, I will start issuing warnings under the standing orders.

**Mr STEVENS:** They do not like it but it is a fact that they cannot win an election without Greens preferences. The Greens, with their loony-bin ideas, are against building dams in Queensland. If we had Big Bill Ludwig back here running the show in the Labor Party we would get something done, but now the lefties on the other side of the parliament—

**Mr POWER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This is a serious debate about those affected by the floods. This is not relevant to the debate that we are having.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** That is not a point of order, member for Logan.

**Mr STEVENS:** The truth really hurts a lot of the members opposite. I mentioned Big Bill Ludwig, who was the AWU boss. Some members might take offence at those things as they are now in the minority in a leftie government. The fact of the matter is that we need—

**Mr TANTARI:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. Can the speaker be asked to come back to the actual debate?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Mermaid Beach, I ask you to ensure that your points refer back to the motion.

**Mr STEVENS:** Without a doubt, because this motion is all about the serious flooding that we have had in Queensland and how that needs to be addressed as it will happen again. We need it to be addressed in the future. We need communications upgraded so that when the big rains are coming we do not hear the excuse that it is climate change. We need to expand the capacity of the dams for mitigation purposes. Certainly we need better planning for future dams.

Unfortunately, the current government is all about excuses and apologies. They are not about doing anything to fix the problems from the flooding that we have experienced. People are blaming the government. Bligh's popularity went through the roof in 2011 with the mud army. Unfortunately, the current Premier has gone from 71 per cent to 51 per cent. That shows exactly what the public thinks about what this government is doing about flooding.