



Speech By  
**Ray Stevens**


**MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 March 2022

**PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE**

**Report, Motion to Take Note**

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (3.50 pm): Firstly, I congratulate all members of the PCCC who have put forward this excellent report. I particularly thank the chairman, the member for Scenic Rim, who was steadfast in his direction on this particular issue. It is never easy, with such an intimidating body as the CCC, to go forward on a very comprehensive and critical report on the behaviour of the CCC. That is what report No. 108 has done.

The pursuit of Logan City Council by the CCC under the chairmanship of Mr MacSporran and the rejection by the courts of the accusations of the CCC under Mr MacSporran were an absolutely sad indictment on the independence of the CCC—a body we all hold high in terms of protecting the integrity of the political regimes in Queensland.

There has been a major focus by this CCC on local government. I mention the three investigations into the Gold Coast city council which have found nothing—no corruption whatsoever—with millions of dollars of taxpayers' money spent. The last report from the CCC ruined the career and livelihood of one particular member—over a staffing issue. Again in Logan the CCC sought to address a staffing issue—and we saw how the CCC sought to protect the CEO. As a consequence of that, the Logan city councillors had their lives and reputations ruined. From my history in local government I happen to know a few of them, in particular Russell Lutton, who was a councillor of the Labor persuasion—

**Mr Krause:** Thirty-four years.

**Mr STEVENS:** For 34 years, thank you. I have known Russell to be nothing but honest and true in the pursuit of his council duties. His life, his reputation and his work over those years was ruined by this particular vendetta, I would call it, from a zealot in chasing local government. I refer to the Moreton Bay mayor and the failed prosecutions mentioned earlier. We see a zealous pursuit of local government. Nothing, except for minor issues, has come to fruition from the CCC, so to justify its existence it has carried out many failed—'witch-hunt' is a good word that members opposite might be familiar with—witch-hunts in local government that have been their undoing. It has been a very sad period in the integrity of Queensland and of the CCC that this chairman's rule has led to this aberration in terms of the duties and responsibilities of the CCC.

We all hope that this is the last we see of problems with the CCC—no more local government investigations on a whim, particularly in the Gold Coast area, unless it gets some actual corruption issues to follow up on rather than staffing issues and wasting more taxpayers' funds on local government vendettas. I hope councillors right across Queensland can feel relieved by this report showing how innocent they were in all these matters. I hope they can get on with their lives. There is an old saying: good riddance to bad rubbish. I note the resignation of Mr Alan MacSporran following this report and others.