




Speech By
Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

Record of Proceedings, 10 November 2022

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Gold Coast Oceanway

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (2.55 pm): I hate to say it, but I told the House so! Due to the recent heavy erosion of Gold Coast beaches around Main Beach, the Gold Coast City council have deferred building the infamous Oceanway Main Beach section until after the 2024 council elections. It does not surprise me one bit and highlights the ridiculous and irresponsible spending of ratepayers' money on a project which everyone knows will be sacrificed when the next big storm hits the Gold Coast.

The so-called A-line rock wall was put in place at great expense to Gold Coast ratepayers to protect the shore line from further erosion. Building of structures east of the A-line was prohibited. Yet the council is flouting its own laws by constructing a four-metre concrete walkway east of the A-line, which they know will be washed away at some point in time. How silly and ill thought out is that expenditure, which I am advised has blown out in costings already and must surely rank up there with the genius decision to put the Gold Coast city lights welcoming structure in the middle of the M1 where no-one can read it!

As I have said repeatedly in this House, the beach is the perfect walking track for exercise enthusiasts, and concreting our beautiful natural sand dunes to placate a few whingeing political aspirants is not the answer to protecting our world-famous pristine beaches. Methinks the postponement of the Main Beach section of the Oceanway may have more to do with the firepower of the rich and famous residents fronting the Main Beach section which will be replicated when the council attacks the rich and famous residents in Hedges Avenue in a similar fashion in the wonderful electorate of Mermaid Beach. I cannot wait for that legal stoush to unfold. Again, it will be the council wasting ratepayers' funds defending the indefensible of wasting Gold Coast money on a structure they know will vanish into the ocean.

The state Labor government should hang their heads in shame for allowing this monumental waste of ratepayers' fund and also for contributing financially to this throwaway infrastructure when there are hundreds of projects in health and transport that need urgent funding. Stop the nonsense now and put the Oceanway in the too-hard basket.

The path in Kurrawa Park is brilliant and the widening of the footpath in Hedges Avenue is the answer to people pushing prams, jogging and for meandering cycling. Albatross Avenue will be the same. It beggars belief that council and the state government will waste more money indulging the politics of envy by attacking those residents with beachfront properties rather than undergrounding anachronistic and ugly decades-old powerlines which inhibit movement along the current narrow pathways. A sensible outcome can be attained which achieves all outcomes for all parties.