



Speech By  
**Ray Stevens**


**MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH**

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Record of Proceedings, 28 October 2025

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Pizzey Park, Pickleball**

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (9.28 pm): I am bringing it home, Mr Deputy Speaker! It disappoints me to report to the House a woeful outcome for a local sporting group in my Mermaid Beach electorate that has led to major disruption to that sporting group, forcing them to find a new home. Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports not only in Australia but throughout the world. I have a large group of pickleballers—some 200 members—and many others playing independently who have called Pizzey Park home for the last 10 years, playing as tenants on the Miami seniors tennis courts. Pickleball is like mini tennis played with a small bat and soft plastic ball and is enjoyed primarily by many seniors as their healthy exercise and gregarious social interaction. I note that the member for Surfers Paradise's wife is a pickleballer, as is my wife.

Someone who lives probably 30 metres from the courts complained about the noise of the bats hitting the balls to the Gold Coast City council, which rejected her complaint. That led to her engaging the local government ombudsman. The ombudsman sent a department of environment compliance officer to the woman's house, which is on a very busy suburban street, and he registered a noise level of 48 decibels. To put that into perspective, a lawnmower registers 68 decibels. The council then wrote to the club and said, 'Pickleball must cease at the venue.' What rubbish! It means that 200 or 300 pickleballers have been forced to find a new home because of one selfish complaint. What in the world is sanity coming to!

There is incredible demand on the Gold Coast for sporting facilities because of the mass migration to the Goldie from down south, so finding new premises for the pickleballers is no easy task. The council has given them a stay of execution for 12 weeks, but it seems ridiculous to me that major council expenditure will be incurred because of one unreasonable complaint. I have Rugby League, soccer and AFL all looking for more grounds to cater for rapid growth in juniors so, again, finding new pickleball courts will be no easy task.

It is an active sport enjoyed by seniors, and the local councillor Nick Marshall is doing a good job finding a new home on their behalf. The question is: how could the department of environment officer find a 48-decibel reading in daylight hours unacceptable to a person's livability? I wonder what the decibel reading would be from the cars on the busy road fronting the woman's unit. I do hope the Gold Coast City council can find and fund new facilities for the pickleballers ASAP, perhaps in another part of the huge sporting area that is Pizzey Park, as this is an important sporting group of seniors who enjoy enormous goodwill throughout my community.