




Speech By
Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

Record of Proceedings, 9 December 2025

MOTION

Cognate Debate; Declared Urgent; Allocation of Time Limit Order; Order of Business

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (3.24 pm): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The irony of that little vote is that we wasted—

Mr Whiting interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Bancroft, you are warned. I had just called the member for Mermaid Beach. He had not said more than a couple of words before interjections started. There will be more joining the member for Bancroft. The member for Mermaid Beach has the call.

Mr STEVENS: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Again, the irony is that those opposite are wasting more valuable time, something which the Manager of Opposition Business suggested was of urgent need to discuss matters ongoing. However, the Manager of Opposition Business might not realise that this is the last sitting week for the year. We will not be sitting again until February—those opposite got the calendar today—so it is a great thing that the current Leader of the House—and I support him as a former leader of the house—has done for the betterment of this Queensland parliament. There are four bills to clear and it is very important that we get them done this week as we move into a very long Christmas break.

The Manager of Opposition Business is the pot calling the kettle black because I was in this House, as was he, when with 18 minutes notice the voting system for Queenslanders was changed. That was a most urgent matter to happen in the middle of the night, yet now he comes out and says, with four hours to go—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Mermaid Beach, you have the call, but I will remind you of the motion that is being debated.

Mr STEVENS: Thank you, Mr Speaker. It really goes back to the urgency of these bills to be done this week and the opposition's complaint that four hours tonight to discuss these matters is not enough time to put forward their views on the matter.

Mr Fumer interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Ferny Grove, I will not caution you again.

Mr STEVENS: Under the Westminster system, as we know, it is the opposition's job to whinge and whine, and it does it very well. Unfortunately, the repetitiveness of this Labor Party's whingeing and whining leads to a great waste of time for this Queensland parliament. I am on the back bench over here and I will have plenty of time. I will put my speech in as succinct a manner as possible, in a shortened version, so that we all get our opportunity in a short time to say our piece. For the Manager of Opposition Business to get up here and whinge and whine, as is his job, about not having enough time is absolute hypocrisy in light of what those opposite did previously when they were on this side for

10 years and all the bills that were pushed through without a problem. I remember the bills that were argued about time and time again after notice of the week's work and the debates on bills that were all cut short by the government of the day.

For the Manager of Opposition Business to not realise the importance of getting these four bills done this year, before we have a long break heading into early February next year, belies any understanding of the importance of getting this legislation through for Queensland, and that is what it is all about—getting this legislation done and dusted this year for Queensland. If those opposite cannot manage to fit their speeches and their whingeing and whining into the appropriate time, that is a problem for the Manager of Opposition Business and the whips. They should be able to manage their speakers with different points of view and ensure that when they are opposing these bills or whatever they want to do—I am not sure which ones they are opposing or which ones they are agreeing to—the bottom line is that they have plenty of time to put their points across. Members opposite have an opportunity to put their different views, not repetitive views time and time again.

For the Manager of Opposition Business to be opposing this motion and then talking for 10 minutes and wasting more time calling for a division so that his deputy opposition leader can get a little speech in—and I am sure that he will follow me in speaking—shows the absolute hypocrisy of the Labor Party. I am taking my time here because these four bills are very important for Queensland and we will get them done. Everyone will get their opportunity to speak. Basically, what those opposite have to do is contain their speaking to points of relevance, not regurgitating their speeches written for them by the Labor Party's 23 staffers on level 9—writing speeches for them to waste the parliament's time. It is a very important—

Mr McDonald interjected.

Mr STEVENS: That is right. It is a very important motion that the Leader of the House has moved for Queensland's benefit. We want these bills done this week. We will not extend the time on Thursday and ruin the valedictories—like the former Labor government did time and time again, wasting time all the way through so that we did not have proper valedictories for the Parliamentary Service. The Leader of the House has done a great job and all members of this House should support this motion.