



Speech By
Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

Record of Proceedings, 10 February 2026

ELECTORAL LAWS (RESTORING ELECTORIAL FAIRNESS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (8.10 pm): It is a great privilege to speak to the Attorney-General's wonderful bill about restoring electoral fairness in Queensland. This bill will give people in Queensland a reasonable opportunity to be treated as normal people and incorruptible. It will basically give everyone the opportunity to have their say politically in terms of which party in Queensland best represents them. I thank the Attorney-General for bringing this bill to the House because she is delivering on a Crisafulli election commitment. That is why we are on this side of the House—because we gave this election commitment—and that is why we are justified in bringing this bill as an urgent bill through the House this week to make sure fairness is restored in Queensland.

On the Gold Coast, the construction industry is our largest industry, and guess what? The construction industry is run by developers. That is our biggest industry on the Gold Coast, and guess who the developers employ? They employ CFMEU members. Guess how you spell corruption in Queensland: C-F-M-E-U. We should be hearing from the Labor Party about their CFMEU members and corruption, because I do not believe I have seen a developer go to the CCC and be charged for nefarious activity. We have no purported risk from the development industry.

The Labor people are saying that developers are dodgy. That is a slur on an industry that has contributed to the development of Queensland. They have not only contributed to the Gold Coast, which is the fastest growing area in Queensland; they have contributed to the wonderful growth in Queensland by providing houses wherever they possibly can. They cannot keep up, unfortunately, because of the previous Labor administration and the red tape they have to comply with.

The development industry is a totally respected industry. I know a lot of them, to be honest, because there are a lot of businesspeople on the Gold Coast. I was on the Economics and Governance Committee—and the member for Logan was chairman in those days—when Mr MacSporran came to the committee and basically said that he would not have included the state in those electoral laws without proper consultation. It was done for purely political reasons, and the member for Logan knows that well and truly because he was chair of the committee at that time.

Mr MacSporran had a few flaws, I have to admit, but that was a genuine comment from a guy who we knew was very keen on making sure that Queensland was kept free of corruption. That was used politically by the then Palaszczuk government for financial gerrymander in terms of allowing unions to donate millions of dollars towards the Labor Party and their puppets of the unions over there. The Palaszczuk government did not want to give the development industry the opportunity to support a political party that they thought would do a better job for Queensland than the Labor union mob that were run by the CFMEU. That is where we got to in terms of that political direction by the Palaszczuk government to gerrymander the electoral opportunities.

What we are doing here today is restoring fairness and ensuring developers are not treated as corrupt people. They are very honest people. They have delivered Queensland's growth over many years, particularly on the Gold Coast, which is our fastest growing region in Queensland. We are taking on board thousands of new people every year through the development industry. The development industry goes right across Queensland, as we know, and they should not be treated like criminals by the Labor government. Unfortunately, that is what has happened over previous years. While I have limited time left—

Mrs Frecklington: You still have four minutes. Keep going.

Mr STEVENS: Thank you, Attorney-General. The other part of the bill relates to another little operational political trick that the former Palaszczuk government put in place which allowed people who were incarcerated to vote. That was a direct attempt, if you like, to garner more Labor votes from behind the locked doors of correctional facilities. I have to say that if you have to rely on votes from behind the locked doors of correctional facilities then you are a dodgy lot. Unfortunately, that is what happened in the Palaszczuk government. They reduced themselves to the stage where they were trying to scrape together every vote they could get—even out of the prisons—to get themselves re-elected. It did not do them any good in Lockyer anyway, because Jimmy bolted in.

The fact of the matter is that people are incarcerated for a reason. They have broken the laws of society and they do not deserve to have their say in the direction of Queensland through voting. This is a great move forward. It recognises proper and sensible actions in Queensland parliament. I again thank the Attorney-General for basically bringing Queenslanders back into the real world.

I totally support the passing of this bill. I will be able to look my developer friends on the Gold Coast in the eye and say, 'You are not criminals, as the Labor Party calls you.' We support developers and the work they do in Queensland. We want developers to give us more houses in Queensland, because we believe they are honest, they do a good job and they should be unrestricted in terms of putting the party in that they want to put in—and hopefully it is us. The bottom line is that this has been a gerrymander that the Labor Party have loved doing. It is a bit like their compulsory preferential voting bill that they passed in 18 minutes. That does not relate to this bill and I hope to talk about that at another time.

This bill rights a wrong. In this parliament we should not be doing things just for a political benefit, but that is what the previous bill of the Palaszczuk government was designed to do. It was like a gerrymander, if you like. They could not get away with gerrymanders before so they tried a financial gerrymander to allow their unions to give millions of dollars right across the board. We see that the real corruption is in the CFMEU and their puppets over there. I do not think the member for Logan is a member of the CFMEU, but other members over there are CFMEU members.

Basically, what we have done here through this legislation, should it be passed by the parliament—and Labor members should vote for this bill as well because it brings fairness back to Queensland—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Mermaid Beach, as engaging as your contribution is, I have to tell you that under the provisions of the order agreed to by the House I need you to resume your seat.