



Speech By
Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

Record of Proceedings, 11 February 2026

ADJOURNMENT

Gold Coast Electorate

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (9.08 pm): The Gold Coast is now a very diversified economy, and as a city bigger than the state of Tasmania the nation's tourism capital now boasts the construction industry, the education industry and the burgeoning film and entertainment industry as major contributors to the employment and financial sustainability of Queensland's fastest growing city. In the magnificent electorate of Mermaid Beach, from the very early days of what is now known as Gold Coast City the Gold Coast city council maintained a freehold property at Miami which ran as the council depot for city maintenance crews and machinery servicing the eastern areas of the Gold Coast.

Just recently I was invited by council officers to inspect the site with them to be appraised of the council's proposal to change the use of the site to a film production studio under the direction and operation of the world famous film producer Mr Baz Luhrmann.

A government member interjected.

Mr STEVENS: Baz and Ray. Currently Mr Luhrmann has a small office situated on the site, but he has big plans for a major expansion of the production facilities which would attract many employees from the many facets of filmmaking on the Gold Coast who enjoy our fabulous lifestyle. While I was there, I had the pleasure of meeting Mr Luhrmann personally and discussing directly his vision and the opportunities available for the expansion of the Gold Coast film industry. His enthusiasm and belief in the Gold Coast's suitability for the film industry expansion was infectious, and I support his and the council's vision for the development of this site for the specific purpose of film industry growth and employment opportunities. However, I have written to the council and advised of my dissension to any proposals for multiple residential high-rise development on this publicly owned property which would exacerbate traffic, parking and social issues when there is an unserved demand for sporting ovals for the clubs that host the thousands of young kids who come to the coast every year hoping to play soccer, AFL, rugby, netball and other sporting endeavours.

The last Oscar winner I can remember for the Gold Coast was Peter Frampton, who won his Oscar for his work on the Mel Gibson movie *Braveheart*. Hopefully, with Baz Luhrmann making his home on the Gold Coast, there will be many more Oscars to come. We have great actors on the world stage who have originated from the Gold Coast, such as the lovely Margot Robbie who went to Somerset College on the Gold Coast with my son—he is a bit slow to move, obviously—and our very good family friend, Anna Torv, who is an absolute star right across the world as well. The financial benefits that come from this incredibly important 21st century industry must be supported and promoted wherever possible.