




Speech By
Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Surf Life Saving

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (2.15 pm): I rise to advise the House of a wonderful new manufacturer who has started up business in the legendary electorate of Mermaid Beach since last December and, believe it or not, it is Surf Life Saving Queensland. With great wisdom and foresight Surf Life Saving Queensland, under the brilliant stewardship of Nathan Fife, have relocated their Queensland headquarters to a fantastic new purpose-built headquarters in Mermaid Beach on the fabulous Gold Coast. Included in the three-storey building is a facility for manufacturing inflatable rescue boats—IRBs; the surf lifesaving world's 21st century answer to quick and rapid rescue. I witnessed 18 being manufactured for sale to lifesaving clubs across the nation. Plans are also in place to manufacture these IRBs for use by disaster management groups across the country for use when flooding from rivers engulfs our towns. They are light and incredibly quick, holding six persons and are amazingly durable, with some existing ones already lasting 20 years. What a wonderful initiative to locate the Queensland headquarters of surf lifesaving in the middle of the Gold Coast, the nation's tourism and surfing capital and home regularly to Australia's national surf lifesaving titles as well as international surfing contests.

Surf lifesaving is a unique Australian family endeavour, starting from a very early age with cute-as-pie pink-shirted nippers on weekends, graduating to full-blown surf club members donating thousands of volunteer hours patrolling to keep our beaches safe. Nippers must have a parent with them so they cannot be used as babysitting facilities, which encourages parents to become emotionally involved. I am privileged to have four great clubs in my electorate: North Burleigh, Nobby Beach, Miami and, of course, the electorate's namesake club of Mermaid Beach. I am proud to support them all in any way I can and proud to be a financial sponsor of several of their events with great gusto. I love the family tradition of the clubs, with generations of families involved. Their magnificent locations lend themselves to fine eating, meeting and socialising hotspots for our local communities.

For Surf Life Saving Queensland to position their headquarters in the very heart of the Queensland surf lifesaving community for the next part of this century is both inspirational thinking and strategically dynamic placement to take advantage of a population boom in the backyard of their most important natural asset, the 42 kilometres of Gold Coast beaches. The red and yellow iconic brand of lifesaving is as Australian as football, meat pies and Holden cars.

Mr Mander: And Kangaroos!

Mr STEVENS: I forgot the kangaroos. Thank you, member for Everton. Well done, Nathan, and your very happy team at the Mermaid Beach Surf Life Saving Club.