




Speech By
Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

Record of Proceedings, 21 May 2015

ADJOURNMENT

Gold Coast, Party Houses

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (6.38 pm): I rise in this House tonight with positive news for the Mermaid Beach electorate and indeed the Gold Coast with the adoption of the Temporary Local Planning Instrument No. 1 (Party houses) 2015 by the Gold Coast City Council. This issue has been long standing and was one of the most disturbing activities for the usually peaceful communities within my electorate—communities such as Broadbeach Waters, Mermaid Waters and Clear Island Waters, which have experienced unruly and unacceptable behaviour on a regular basis for far too long.

As everyone in my constituency is aware I have campaigned long and hard for this legislation, and I am proud to announce that the party is now over with the implementation enabling the Gold Coast City Council to enforce the TLPI from Monday, 18 May. We now have an opportunity to eradicate and stop these unapproved short-term letting businesses in residential areas for good. These party houses have been impacting our residents for years, and a solution in the best interests of suffering communities was needed.

The introduction of these clear legislative changes giving powers to local councils to enforce restrictions on short-term holiday letting in residential areas is already having an effect. I have had several constituents contact my office telling me how pleased they are by the news and that there is already noticeable change to their neighbourhoods with the long-term leasing of several homes rather than the short-term party house letting.

This important state legislation empowering councils such as Gold Coast City Council was developed by the LNP in government and shows how positive outcomes can be achieved with cooperation, hard work and empathy for the citizens of Queensland doing the right thing. I now call on the Palaszczuk government to ensure that the party stays over by working with our local government to further develop the proposed TLPI for the Gold Coast City Plan 2015. Mayor Tom Tate has been a beacon of moral fortitude in relation to this issue, and I cannot thank him enough for his rapid and decisive approach to the party house problem. Councillor Paul Taylor has also been a great supporter of this solution to a nagging problem in his electorate since his election in 2012, and I hope to see his good work for the constituency continue beyond 2016.

Lastly, as this will probably be my last speech on the party house legislation, I would like to place on record my genuine thanks to former premier Campbell Newman, without whose unflinching support and determination to eradicate the unacceptable behavioural issues associated with these party houses I would not have had the imprimatur to achieve an outcome of the implementation of legislation through this House to fix the problem. 'Can-do' Campbell did fix the party houses, and he was ably assisted by his minister in charge of planning, Jeff Seeney, who overcame the bureaucratic claptrap of naysayers to make the party house legislation a reality. It is the same strong, committed governance we need from the Palaszczuk government.