



Speech By  
**Ali King**


**MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE**

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## **PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT**

### **Pumicestone Electorate, Coronavirus Vaccination**

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (3.30 pm): The COVID clock is ticking. People are booking their tickets to come to Queensland to see their loved ones for Christmas, and sadly we know that some of them will bring COVID-19 with them. This is a race, it has always been a race and people in Pumicestone, I am proud to say, were some of the first out of the blocks.

I am so proud of our community and how we have worked together to get people vaccinated. Our GPs and pharmacists have worked together. We recently had a pop-up clinic at the Bribie Combined Emergency Services Expo where 300 doses were administered. Our local First Nations people are leading the way with the leader of the Pumicestone Indigenous Education and Employment Council, Michelle Watson, taking her mob in to be vaccinated. I also acknowledge Connie Whyte who runs the Queensland Health vaccination program across Northern Moreton Bay with her team at the Caboolture Square vaccination hub, including new grad nurses like Kate who are all doing an amazing job.

Vaccination rates in Pumicestone are absolutely a tale of two cities or perhaps a tale of two regions. On 25 October the Bribie-Beachmere area was 12 per cent above the Queensland average at over 87 per cent first dose—an extraordinary achievement, particularly given our GP crisis. On the other side of Pumicestone, Caboolture lags behind the Queensland average on 72 per cent first dose. The Elimbah postcode, which I share with the member for Glass House, is trailing well behind on 69 per cent first dose, while the Caboolture hinterland region has reached only 64.5 per cent first dose.

Every single day I am advocating vaccination for the Northern Moreton Bay in every way I know how to save lives when COVID comes. I have phoned, I have advertised on social media, I have letterboxed, I have direct mailed and I visit clinics, GPs and pharmacies. My Labor colleagues across Moreton Bay are all loud and proud champions of vaccination, whether that is the member for Kurwongbah, the member for Bancroft, the member for Morayfield or the member for Murrumba.

What are local LNP members saying about vaccination? With the COVID-19 emergency on our doorstep, the member for Glass House has mentioned vaccination just once on his Facebook page in the last three months. In that three months he has mentioned sports, the NRL, food and coffee dozens of times. Are food, coffee, sports and NRL more important than urging local people to get vaccinated and save their lives?

The federal member for Longman is another LNP politician who is barely mentioning vaccination and when he does he is wishy-washy. He talks about choice and choosing to be vaccinated and whether people wish to be vaccinated. We do not talk about people choosing to wear a seatbelt. We do not talk about whether they wish to get ready for a cyclone or a bushfire.

COVID is coming and I am pleading with local LNP members to get serious about encouraging our communities to get vaccinated in these crucial days and weeks. Some 27 people died of COVID yesterday and I do not want to see that happening in Northern Moreton Bay. Please everybody get vaccinated.