



Speech By  
**Ali King**


**MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### My Berries; Ghost Soldiers; PIEEC

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (6.59 pm): Pumicestone produce is spectacular, especially our strawberries, raspberries and blackberries. Even better, Pumicestone has innovative producers such as My Berries, a small but growing family business run by Allison and Stuart McGruddy. My Berries already supplies frozen fruit to independent grocers across Australia, but now Allison and Stuart are ready to launch their innovative Berry Bites range. Their berries are freeze dried to lock in flavour, creating sweet, crunchy, nutritious snacks. Just 12 grams is equivalent to a 125-gram punnet of fresh berries. Look out for Berry Bites in your local IGA or supermarket.

My Berries give farmers a market for surplus berries in peak season, value-adding while reducing food waste. That is why Minister Furner recently named My Berries Queensland's 21st #eatqld champions. Our Palaszczuk government's #eatqld program spotlights Queensland produce, encourages Queenslanders to eat local and supports good jobs in the agricultural sector. Congratulations to My Berries and thank you for showcasing our beautiful Pumicestone produce.

Derek Patey and the Bribie Island community men's shed recently brought more laurels to Pumicestone with their extraordinary Ghost Soldiers. After seeing wire sculptures of World War I soldiers at Slimbridge churchyard in England, the Bribie Island RSL sub-branch commissioned our men's shed to recreate them. Over four months, men's shed members wrangled 600 metres of chicken wire, coping endless scratches and ruining 20 pairs of leather gloves, to sculpt eight diggers.

Derek Patey broke new territory by sculpting the iconic stretcher bearer John Simpson and his donkey Duffy tending a wounded digger. Our Ghost Soldiers stood their first vigil in the dawn light of the Bribie Island Anzac Day service this year. They were utterly haunting. I was moved to tears. Derek says that seeing the reactions of veterans and their families to his work was the highlight of his life. When Derek entered Simpson and his donkey in the Ekka art challenge, I was delighted but not at all surprised that he won the grand championship for sculpture. Derek and the Bribie men's shed team created a legacy that eloquently evokes the human cost of war. Our ex-service personnel and the Bribie community will appreciate their work for decades to come.

While I am on my feet, I also want to acknowledge the work of PIEEC, the Pumicestone Indigenous Education and Employment Council, led by elders such as Aunty Flo Watson and her daughter, Michelle Watson. PIEEC builds community and improves outcomes for First Nations families in our area every single day. I look forward to walking alongside PIEEC on our Path to Treaty. I am keen to hear from those opposite whether they will join us in a bipartisan moment in this historic part of Queensland's history.