



Speech By  
**Ali King**


**MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Bribie Island Bridge

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (7.22 pm): For the people of Pumicestone, our Bribie Island Bridge symbolises what it means to grow up, live and get older in our beautiful community. For year 12 classes graduating from Bribie Island State High School, jumping off the Bribie Island Bridge at the end of the semester is a celebration and a rite of passage. For many families like mine, the Bribie Island Bridge has happy memories of summer barbecues and fireworks to welcome the New Year. For retirees, the bridge is iconic of the Pumicestone Passage where they paddle, fish and enjoy mucking around in boats.

Every year, more visitors cross the Bribie Island Bridge and fall in love. That is great news for our local small businesses, but not so great for traffic congestion. When our bridge was first constructed in 1963, Bribie was home to only 600 people. Now, in 2022, our bridge is looking a bit retro and Bribie's population has boomed by 3,330 per cent, with well over 800,000 visitors crossing Bribie Island Bridge to visit our island paradise every year.

The 2014 GHD report suggested that Bribie Island Bridge will hit capacity during peak periods by 2031, but if you ask locals on sunny Saturday mornings, during the school holidays, or any time there is an event on at the Sandstone Point Hotel, they will tell you capacity has been well and truly reached already. I want to give a shout-out at this point to our Moreton Bay Mayor, Peter Flannery, who spent a frustrating couple of hours stuck in traffic on the Bribie Island Bridge last Australia Day. This issue goes beyond congestion. With over 55 per cent of our Bribie community aged 60 and over, people tell me they worry about ambulances getting on and off the island when traffic is heavy. Disappointingly, the LNP took funding for our bridge off the table after the 2020 election, as I very clearly remember.

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Bush): Order, member!

**Ms KING:** By contrast, I listened to our community and worked hard to get \$4 million for a business case to plan our next Bribie Island bridge.

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, member! Pause the clock. Member for Everton, I have asked you twice now. I do not want to warn you at this time, but that will be my next move.

**Ms KING:** Now I am delighted to announce that the business case is well underway. Community consultation will be absolutely essential to the business case and I ask everyone in our Pumicestone community to have their say. We need to know what is most important to you in planning our next bridge. Do you want to see better active transport paths for mobility scooters, bikes and wheelchairs? How could a future Bribie bridge make recreational boating safer and better? What is unique about our community that designers need to know when planning a future Bribie bridge? Pumicestone, get ready to have your say on our next Bribie Island bridge for the future of our community.