




Speech By
Ali King

MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE

Record of Proceedings, 29 November 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Pumicestone Electorate

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (7.21 pm): It is a shame that the member for Mirani has not paid any attention to our Turn to Teaching Internship Program or any of the other measures that our government is taking to boost teaching numbers right across Queensland.

There is so much to celebrate in our beautiful Pumicestone communities this Christmas. It has been a big year of delivering for our community. I look back and in 2020 I promised that every Pumicestone classroom, staffroom and library would have air conditioning—and now they do. Locals told me that they were struggling to see a GP, so we fought hard against the former LNP federal government's cuts to our distribution priority area status and last year we got that restored, making it easier for GP clinics to find and attract staff. Bribie residents told me that they needed more health care closer to home, so not only are we delivering our Bribie Island Satellite Hospital but also fought hard to get chemo included into the services. I know that has been enormously welcomed by our Bribie community.

As we speak, Beachmere Road's long-awaited start-to-finish upgrade is underway. While it is a bit inconvenient for the people of Beachmere—and I particularly want to acknowledge the small businesses—I know that it will make all the difference in the world to our Beachmere community. The road is the single thing that unites the people of Beachmere. I know that they are beyond delighted to see those graders rolling, and the work is happening faster than anybody could have imagined.

Soon we are going to see the concept designs for our long-awaited next Bribie Island Bridge. I know that that will be enormously exciting to community members, many of whom have told me, 'It will never happen,' but we will see.

Coming into Christmas though, I do want to acknowledge that national cost-of-living pressures have been extra tough on families. That is why our government is providing the biggest cost-of-living support package in the country with our huge energy rebates. In particular, I want to acknowledge the work of my office who have done so much to help locals apply for their Climate Smart Energy Savers rebate. Not only are those families getting significant rebates off the cost of a much needed appliance, but their energy bills are going to be up to \$100 cheaper every year into the future. My staff—Olivia, Noeline and Domenic—have worked so hard to help people with those applications.

From 2024 I know that Bribie kindy is really excited to be delivering Free Kindy for the first time. It is a wonderful start for our littlest Queenslanders, but it is also going to help families with the cost of living, with up to \$4,600 saved every year during that kindy program. We have so many great kindy and long day care centres in our electorate. I really want to acknowledge those workers.

As the year draws to a close, I want to wish all of our communities a happy and prosperous Christmas.

(Time expired)