




Speech By
Ali King

MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Bribie Island Bridge

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (2.49 pm): Since long before I was elected, Bribie locals have been telling me that their top infrastructure priority is building a new Bribie bridge. Our Bribie bridge is a local icon. It was built in 1963 to serve only a few hundred locals and a modest tourist industry. More than 60 years on, Bribie has over 21,000 residents and our Bribie bridge needs backup. That is why in 2020 I listened to locals and I put our bridge on the agenda with a commitment to deliver the business case for the next Bribie bridge. As part of that business case, the concept designs for our next Bribie bridge have been released. I encourage every resident in Pumicestone to have their say.

I am really proud that these concept designs deliver on what Bribie locals told us matters to them. They told me that they needed reliable access to the island for work and school, to care for their elderly family members and for our first responders. They told me that they wanted better and safer active transport corridors. They told me that they wanted our environment considered, including our famous pelicans, and that they wanted roads on either side of the new Bribie bridge improved to keep traffic flowing. Our concept designs deliver on all of that and more.

The next Bribie bridge matters to locals, and the Miles Labor government is listening to our community and delivering the infrastructure that we need for Pumicestone's future, never more so than now as we work toward the next Bribie Island bridge. I have worked hard every single day since I was elected to deliver for the people of Pumicestone and I will not stop until I have delivered that bridge. I say a big thankyou to Minister Mellish for his strong support for our next Bribie bridge. On his very first day on the job I rang him to bend his ear about it. He took the time to listen, and it was great to stand with him beside our beautiful Pumicestone Passage to announce the concept designs.

Our proven track record is working hard every day to listen and deliver for the people of Pumicestone. What a contrast with the LNP. It certainly is not focusing on delivering our next Bribie bridge. Who can forget the very first press conference, where the weak Leader of the Opposition stood up and walked back the LNP's support for another Bribie bridge—and he has been weak and watery on this and every other issue ever since? The LNP is simply not focused on what Bribie locals need; it just blows in and blows out of Pumicestone, spreading its fake news. It terrorised Bribie locals with its desal scam. It spreads fake news about funding cuts to Bribie Island Road. It does not have a candidate. There is just nothing happening there but dysfunction and fake news.

At the end of the day, the LNP's actions are nothing but a smokescreen to camouflage its real plan for Pumicestone, because the LNP only has one plan and it is a plan for cuts. Its weak LNP leader will not support our progressive coal royalties and has blown a \$9 billion hole in his own budget. It cannot prioritise our next Bribie bridge because its top priority is sucking up to its multinational coal company mates. It will not be building bridges; it will be sacking roadworkers. Queenslanders remember the last time the LNP was in power, when it cut \$3 billion from local road projects. Long-term Bribie locals remember the LNP government, which sprang a last-minute toll on the current Bribie bridge when

it was built, draining money from locals' wallets and draining our local economy. Only the Miles Labor government guarantees that there will never be a toll on our next Bribie bridge. Our record speaks for itself, and so does the LNP's. It will cut, it will sack and it will sell.

Queenslanders know what the LNP stands for because it has shown us time and time again, and now it has told us that it is going to do it all over again. Only our Miles Labor government will listen to people in Pumicestone and deliver the infrastructure we need and only our Miles Labor government has a plan to build Bribie's next bridge, whereas the LNP's only plan is for cuts. It has no ideas, no policies and no candidate. Its plan is to cut, gut and sell our satellite hospitals in Bribie and Caboolture. It has failed to plan for our next Bribie bridge. There is its fake news, its plan for cuts and the member for Glass House out there spruiking it every step of the way instead of standing up for his own community. The LNP is bad for Pumicestone and it is bad for Queensland. The people of Queensland know it and the people of Pumicestone know it—every single day of the week.