




Speech By
Ariana Doolan

MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE

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ADJOURNMENT

Zmuda, Ms C

 **Miss DOOLAN** (Pumicestone—LNP) (9.10 pm): I rise tonight not only with a heavy heart but also with deep admiration as I honour the life of Charlize Zmuda, a young woman whose presence brought light, joy and inspiration to our community. Charlize was more than just a dedicated surf lifesaver; she was the heart of the Bribie Island Surf Life Saving Club, a nipper from age 8, vice-captain of her patrol, a role model, a mentor and a friend to so many. To those who knew her, she was our favourite 'little red'—a young woman whose passion for the ocean and for helping others was unmatched. Her best friend, Charlie, watched her grow into a kind, intelligent and gifted individual. It is her wish, and the wish of the Zmuda family, that we remember Charlize not for how she was taken from us but for the incredible life she lived. Charlize was an active and vibrant member of our community. She was not just a surf lifesaver; she was a talented netballer, a former Little Athletics member and a gifted musician. Her dad, Stephen, said—

She could hear a piece of music and then pick up and play it at the drop of a heartbeat.

Whether she was on the court, at the track, in the ocean or playing music, she poured her heart into everything that she did. Charlize loved the ocean. She respected it, embraced it and found joy in it every single day. Her family and friends want people to continue enjoying the beach—just as she would. Charlize would never have wanted fear to take away what she loved most. She would want us to keep swimming at Bribie and to cherish our oceans.

I want to acknowledge the incredible first responders who were there that day: our local police, led by Senior Sergeant James, who handled this tragedy with the utmost respect and professionalism. To Jeff Butler and the entire Bribie surf club team, who not only dedicate their lives to keeping our beaches safe but who are now also grieving one of their own: we stand with you. To the emergency services personnel who arrived swiftly and did everything they could: we thank you for your service.

This week, as many from our communities gather at the Billie Eilish concert, we encourage everyone to honour Charlize during one of her favourite songs, *Wildflower*. When the song plays, we ask you to put up your phone lights to shine a light for Charlize, just as she shone so brightly in all of our lives. Finally, I invite everyone to join us this Sunday at 10 am at Woorim Beach for Charlize's memorial. This is a time for all who knew and loved her to come along and celebrate the life she lived. To the Zmuda family—Renee, Stephen, Stef; to Charlie and Emily; to the Bribie surf club, St Columban's and St Michael's community and all who are grieving: the people of Pumicestone stand with you. We will honour Charlize not only in words but in the way we continue to embrace the values that she lived. Rest in peace, Charlize. Your spirit will always be with us—in the waves, in our hearts and in the lights that shine for you.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!