



UPDATES



(1). BIEPA is sad to report that we were unsuccessful in our attempts to save the juvenile ficus just north of the Bribie bridge on Sylvan Beach Esplanade. We have received the final decision from Council that the tree must go. It was a valiant battle on the part of everyone including the MBRC decision makers. Each suggestion and possibility from BIEPA to Council, in our efforts to save the life of this tree, brought the fate of the tree back to the table for discussion. As you know the pathway and infrastructure under the bridge suffered unprecedented damage from an extraordinarily high tide. The extensive engineering works being carried out to reinstate the stability and integrity of the pathway, bridge and seawall infrastructure at this location has required new footings, a sump and protection of existing underground infrastructure beyond what was initially anticipated. It was concluded that the tree would not be able to withstand the damage it would sustain from all the new underground and adjacent construction necessary. Also, as this was an unpredicted event, there was not enough time necessary to prepare the tree for removal in order to give it the best chance for survival. Council has committed to ten new plantings in the same neighbourhood to replace the ficus. We thank all of you for your caring responses and suggestions and we also thank those council staff who listened to our concerns for the tree and suggestions for its survival as well as delaying the final decision so all options could be properly considered.

(2). Recently, BIEPA's president, Diane Oxenford, was invited by Simone Wilson MP (for Pumicestone) to attend an outdoor meeting in parkland north of the bridge on Bribie Island. State Opposition Leader Deborah Frecklington MP made an announcement that if the LNP were elected to government in October 2020 they would commit to installing the remaining eight pelican roosting sites along the bridge.

At the meeting, BIEPA reiterated the need for decision makers to be cognisant of the Welcome to Bribie Island sign that states Bribie Island is a Fauna and Flora Sanctuary as well as being protected under the United Nations Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species. It is important we acknowledge that the adult pelicans have migrated to their breeding area (Lake Eyre) and it is mostly juvenile pelicans that remain in our marine environment. This may be the reason we are not seeing many pelicans roosting along the bridge at the moment.

Also, with time, it may become apparent that the spikes should be removed for the welfare of the pelicans. BIEPA's communications with the government have given valid reasons for the spikes being unnecessarily installed in the first instance.