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MEDIA RELEASE

Last challenges Ministers to “see it for yourself”

Member for Burdekin, Dale Last, wants State Government Ministers to front the public in response to calls from the public for increases in Ambulance and Police staffing numbers.

Just a week ago, a petition from 413 concerned Collinsville residents was dismissed by the Police Minister and now the Minister for Ambulance Services has ignored a petition from 458 residents.

“There are only two permanent Ambulance officers in Collinsville and with the distances involved it is putting lives at risk but the Minister has washed his hands of it”

“Paramedics are having to rely on a member of the public to drive an Ambulance while they are working to save a life in the back of that Ambulance and all the Minister can say is that it will be taken into consideration... it really is an insult.”

“It feels like history repeating... one third of the population have said there is an issue and the relevant Minister just dismisses it,” Mr Last said.

“We have now had two requests from significant proportions of the community and two Ministers with important portfolios just don’t understand Regional Queensland.”

Mr Last said the issue wasn’t just limited to Collinsville with a recent Question on Notice about Police officer numbers at Bowen dismissed despite safety issues for Police Officers being one of the concerns. He also said the problem wasn’t within the departments, but in the government itself.

“I realise that the Minister takes advice from the Department and I’m not blaming this on the Queensland Police Service or the Queensland Ambulance Service,” Mr Last said.

“But, surely a Minister should realise that two petitions in a short period, both signed by one-third of the population, is an indication that something isn’t right.”

“Minister Miles and Minister Ryan should hop on a plane and come and listen to what the people of Collinsville and other areas are saying... but it seems they just don’t care about regional Queensland.

ENDS

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Link to ambulance petition and reply: <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-assembly/petitions/petition-details?id=2952>

Link to question on notice: <http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/tableOffice/questionsAnswers/2018/853-2018.pdf>