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MEDIA RELEASE

Burdekin residents have their say on crime

Member for Burdekin, Dale Last, has thanked members of the Burdekin community for their attendance at a Crime Forum and their support of Police Officers in the fight against crime.

Almost 200 people attended the event, with many people effectively turned away, proving that crime is an issue in the Burdekin and residents are concerned about it according to Mr Last.

"I am grateful that the Minister for Police and the Police Commissioner accepted my invitation to attend the Burdekin and hear people's concerns and suggestions on how to address the crime wave first hand," Mr Last said.

"The presentations from Senior Police prove that our local officers are doing their absolute best to protect the residents of the Burdekin district and the Minister now knows, without doubt, that this is a community that wants to feel safe and a community that will work with Police to achieve that."

Attendees told the meeting about their experiences with crime, with many admitting they did not feel safe and felt that there were not enough Police resources in the Burdekin district.

"People said they want more police in the district and that's something I will continue to fight for because, as a community, we need to push for our local Police to have the resources they need," Mr Last said.

"Both the Minister and the Commissioner said that there are other departments and groups that have a role to play so I will be keeping the pressure on until we have the inter-agency cooperation that's needed."

"It seems that there are some issues with departments not pulling their weight so I will be chasing the details and following up with the relevant minister to make sure it happens."

The former Police Officer said there were also opportunities for the community to play a bigger role in tackling the issue.

"Groups like Neighbourhood Watch, Volunteers in Policing and Crimestoppers play a valuable role in the fight against crime and there are opportunities for community members to get involved and be part of the solution," Mr Last said.

“We had confirmation on the night from Queensland Police Service that vehicle theft has increased and a number of business owners expressed concern about the increase in vandalism to their premises which needs to be addressed as a priority.”

“There was a very clear message from participants at the forum that they expect the government to get tough on crime and I fully support that position.”

“All the people of the Burdekin district are asking for is for a fair go, for the staffing and resources we need so we can feel safe in our homes.”

“The Commissioner and the Minister made a commitment to reinforce links between the community and Police and that is something I will hold them accountable for.”

Mr Last said a member of the public had suggested another forum in 12 months to follow up on the commitments given and that this was another great idea.

“This is an important issue that we need to stay focussed on so I hope the Minister and the Commissioner honour their commitment to return,” Mr Last said.

“It’s obviously important to the community and we’ll definitely need a bigger venue so that we can keep the pressure on the government to fix it.”

ENDS

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