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MEDIA RELEASE

Last fight not over on police

A petition signed by 413 Collinsville residents and supported by Member for Burdekin, Dale Last, has failed to persuade the Police Minister to increase Police Officer Numbers in Collinsville.

The petition raised many genuine concerns from residents and Mr Last said, as a former police officer, the support of a community was important and should be listened to.

"Sometimes being a Police Officer, especially in regional Queensland, can be a lonely job and to have residents of a town actively working to help their local officers is something that should be applauded... not dismissed." Mr Last said.

"Over 400 residents have raised important issues including the time it takes to transport prisoners leaving Collinsville without a police presence for hours at a time."

"Basically one-third of the population of Collinsville are standing up and saying their officers need more support but the Minister probably just doesn't understand it."

"When you are sitting in an office in the big cities 400 people doesn't sound like much but a quick look at the Census data shows it's a significant part of Collinsville."

"Police in smaller centres have their work cut out for them and I will gladly fight for a community that supports their local Police Officers and wants a safe and secure community."

In recent months Mr Last has taken the government to task on issues affecting Police Officers throughout the electorate and he said law and order are issues he is constantly asked about.

"Queenslanders just want a safe and secure place to live and to know there are sufficient Police Officers who are receiving the support they need from the Government and the Queensland Police Service," Mr Last said.

"Crime is a big problem throughout the state so I am grateful that community members allow me to help them and their local police officers keep us all safe."

ENDS

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Link to petition: <http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-assembly/petitions/petition-details?id=2951>

Link to Minister's response: <http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Documents/TableOffice/TabledPapers/2018/5618T951.pdf>