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MEDIA RELEASE

Last on the attack for victims

Member for Burdekin & Shadow Minister for Northern Queensland, Dale Last, has called for the Premier to give an “iron clad guarantee” that Emergency Services in North Queensland will be adequately funded and that staff will have access to all support services they need.

The call comes following the dismissal by the Government of calls for extra Police and Ambulance staff, police stations in Townsville being slated for closure and Ambulance staff feeling their health concerns are ignored.

“We already knew the justice system in Queensland was broken thanks for Labor but it looks like it might be broke too,” Mr Last said.

“This is like rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic,” Mr Last said. “Close two police beats in crime hot spots and try to justify it by saying a new station is opening.”

“What an insult to the people of Townsville but, unfortunately, I am not surprised because Emergency Services seems to be a great place to cut costs for this government.”

“I’ve had two petitions from presented to parliament that have basically been dismissed by the relevant Ministers.” “Both times more than a third of the population signed the petition and the reply is the additional staff aren’t needed.”

“If one third of the population is saying there is a problem it’s a pretty good indicator there is a problem but these Ministers just don’t understand regional Queensland.”

“Members of the public are driving Ambulances while Paramedics are saving lives in the back of the ambulance and the best the Minister can do is say it will be taken into consideration.”

In recent weeks the former Police Officer and Area Director for Emergency Management Queensland has taken the government to task over staffing and other issues throughout his electorate and Northern Queensland.

“Prison staff, police, paramedics and teachers are being assaulted and this government basically does nothing,” Mr Last said.

“QAS staff... people who literally save lives every day, are afraid to raise concerns because they think they will be placed into medical retirement.”

“Instead of doing something, they commission report after report and hope the public will forget but the people of regional Queensland are smarter than that.”

“Members of the government stand up every day and tell us that things are being done but it seems that they are empty promises in regional Queensland.”

“When the government forced the Vegetation Management Laws through parliament there were promises of new industries and new jobs for affected farmers but nothing has been said or done since.”

“This government is all talk and no action.”

The Member for Burdekin said there were large parts of regional Queensland dealing with drought, crime epidemics and high levels of unemployment and instead of addressing these issues the Government has continued to sit on its hands.

“You just have to look at the detail of the recent budget to see this state government just doesn’t get it,” Mr Last said.

“Everyone knows there is a crime epidemic yet the Department of Justice and Attorney General has their capital funding cut in half in the budget.”

“Regional Queensland needs the right resources but we need Queensland Government to actually get behind us as well.”

“When NAIF announced funding for facilities at JCU in Townsville the State Government criticised NAIF and accused the Federal Government of being too slow and not doing enough.”

“Meanwhile the State Government has 159 projects submitted for consideration in Brisbane and three years later, they have approved two... 2 out of 159 in 3 years.”

“The government needs to show some leadership and stop the silly political games.”

“I’ve invited Ministers to come to the electorate and North Queensland to front up to the public and hear from them first hand but there is no action.”

“They have either given up or they just don’t care and people in regional Queensland can see that, with government resources being squeezed dry while the South East Corner flourishes.”

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NOTE: Statistics relating to Dept of Justice & Attorney General Capital Spending is sourced from budget documents. Please contact David Cooper for copies of these documents if needed for reference.