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MEDIA RELEASE

Crime statistics prove Townsville has been let down

Member for Burdekin, Dale Last, has seized on recent crime statistics and comments from a well-respected expert to accuse the Queensland Government of neglecting the regions again.

Statistics provided by the Queensland Police Service show horrifying increases in crime in regional areas; increases that an Associate Professor said show “no great outcomes”.

Associate Professor of Criminology at Bond University, Terry Goldsworthy, has said that offences against the person and property are well above the state average and the Member for Burdekin said the proof is in the numbers.

“Time and time again now we have been told that progress is being made on crime but that is simply not true,” Mr Last said.

“In the last 12 months offences against the person in Townsville are up by over 30% and offences against property are up almost 10% but if you look at specific examples the story is even worse.”

“Assault is up by over 26% and “other theft”, which includes car theft, has risen by nearly 23% yet this government says progress is being made.”

Mr Last also hit out at a recently announced enquiry designed to reduce incarceration rates.

“The Premier, the Police Minister and the Attorney have run out of ideas and the whole issue of crime is becoming an *enquiry-fest*,” the former Police Officer said.

“The best way to reduce incarceration rates is to stop people committing crime... that’s what the Police Minister said in Ayr last month.”

“Minister Ryan is right that we need to stop people offending but it’s just not happening in North Queensland.”

“An Associate Professor in Criminology said he is worried about the crime rate in North Queensland and meanwhile this government just wants to let more criminals roam our streets.”

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