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MEDIA RELEASE

Long journey an inspiration to Last

Member for Burdekin, Dale Last, has thrown his support behind the “*The Peter Project*” and an amazing group of North Queenslanders who are walking from Bowen to Cairns in an effort to save lives.

The Peter Project honours Peter Dejong and is focussed on breaking the stigma attached to Mental Health and opening a conversation about suicide.

“This is an inspirational story and a great example of a family using grief to tackle a major issue and help people who may be suffering,” Mr Last said.

“Sarah, Emma and their supporters are taking on a massive challenge to encourage people to speak up and not feel that they have to be ashamed of Mental Health problems.”

“Unfortunately, Peter’s story is all too common especially in regional areas where suicide rates are at tragic levels.”

Peter attempted suicide at age 17 and he turned 18 while being treated in hospital. Although Peter’s condition improved somewhat, he never fully recovered and, sadly, passed away in 2014.

“The message that *The Peter Project* is sharing is that it’s not weak to speak and that there is help available for anyone who finds themselves facing mental health challenges,” Mr Last said.

“Although Sarah and the team are fundraising to help struggling families, their main aim is to raise awareness.”

“543km is a long way to walk and it would be great to have as many people as possible giving them a wave to encourage them and show their support.”

“I would encourage everyone to check out *The Peter Project* on Facebook and to get behind this amazing group of North Queenslanders.”

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Media Contact: David Cooper – Phone (07) 4767 0500

The Peter Project Contact, Sarah Bon – Phone 0448 845 718