



Dale Last MP
Member for Burdekin

Shadow Minister for Police and Corrective Services, Shadow Minister for Fire and Emergency Services
Shadow Minister for Rural and Regional Affairs

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Media Release – QFES budget slash and burn

The north of the state and emergency volunteers are just two victims of the Labor state government's 'slash and burn' approach to the Queensland Fire and Emergency Service's budget according to Shadow Minister for Fire & Emergency Services, Dale Last MP.

With the Treasurer cutting over 45% of revenue to QFES and a glaring omission from the budget documents, Mr Last believes large parts of Queensland and huge numbers of Queenslanders have been left in the lurch.

"When you compare what was actually spent last financial year with what is budgeted for the coming financial year the cuts can only be described as savage," Mr Last said. "Those cuts mean that, north of Rockhampton, there is one solitary project to upgrade QFES facilities."

"Despite the promises from the Premier and the Member for Thuringowa, there is no money for the multi-agency emergency services headquarters at the former Cowboys Stadium. It is yet another election promise broken and that was an election promise made to the men and women who Queenslanders rely on in times of emergency."

Mr Last said emergency services volunteers would be left with a budget that forecast no improvement in equipment or skills.

"Even though we are yet to see the SES Review, it's obvious from the budget that there are no plans to make much-needed changes to that service," Mr Last said. "There is no increase in the capital grants to the SES and, in fact, less will be spent this coming year than last year."

"But the most concerning aspect is that the government is actually forecasting a reduction in the percentage of volunteers that meet minimal operational training requirements. That means that, if there are natural disasters, the work will fall on the shoulders of even fewer of our brave volunteers."

"Labor is talking up the health and safety aspects of the budget but, when you look at the detail, the cuts to services Queenslanders depend on in times of need are staggering and outright disrespectful."

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