

Office of Dale Last MP | Member for Burdekin

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



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MEDIA RELEASE

Deadly highway overlooked in budget

Whilst welcoming some elements of today's state budget, Member for Burdekin, Dale Last, says one of Queensland's deadliest stretches of highway has been overlooked again.

Despite claiming 17 lives in 18 years, the stretch of the highway between Zinc Road and cape Cleveland Road has missed out on funding for meaningful improvements.

"As we saw the other day when the Transport Minister brushed aside the road toll on the Bruce Highway south of Townsville, we have seen it again today," Mr Last said. "You really have to wonder how many more people need to die before the state government takes notice."

"The Treasurer spoke in his speech about the infrastructure that Queenslanders deserve. Surely we deserve to see that 19km stretch of the highway made safe."

"It's an insult that Labor keeps referring to the Houghton River Floodplain project when it's already underway but can turn a blind eye to a stretch of road that claims almost 1 life every year."

Mr Last said he was happy to see some of Labor's election commitments funded, there was still much to do.

"The Queensland government has finally committed funding to Drivelt and the Big Rocks Weir," Mr Last said. "Unfortunately, though there are quite a few projects that appear to be funded but the actual amount is a small amount of what is required."

"If you look at funding for the Burdekin Falls Dam, it's just over a third of what is required and it's all about planning; not putting shovels in the ground."

"The funding toward the Houghton Pipeline is under 4% so it looks like the wait for a reliable water supply for Townsville will continue for a long time to come."

"I'm glad to see funding for projects at Ayr State High School and Rugby Park in Ayr but it's very evident that the northern part of the Burdekin electorate has been widely overlooked."

"Frankly, we need to see job creating projects throughout the North but there is precious little in this budget."

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