



Dale Last MP
Member for Burdekin

Shadow Minister for Police and Corrective Services, Shadow Minister for Fire and Emergency Services
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Media Release – Country lives left in limbo

Member for Burdekin Dale Last says a QAS deployment model was nothing more than a lazy excuse not to provide a community with more ambulance officers.

After Collinsville residents raised concerns around the fact there was only one paramedic in the district, Mr Last said he sought answers as to why the North Queensland country town had been overlooked.

“When you have civilians being asked to drive an ambulance while their friend or loved one is being treated by a paramedic, it’s simply not good enough.” Mr Last said.

“Collinsville may only be home to a small population but the reality is, it is surrounded by a number of mining companies. It’s all well and good for the Minister to say these companies are required to have a paramedic onsite in case of an incident but it turns a blind eye to the increase for potential road accidents occurring when miners are driving to and from work.”

Mr Last said in the event that the only paramedic was attending one medical incident when another occurred, help was too far away.

“The Minister refers to the dynamic deployment model as if the next available ambulance is just a few kilometres up the road but we know that simply is not the case,” Mr Last said.

“The reality is the next closest ambulance to Collinsville would be in Bowen, that’s more than 85km away.

“So in an instance where time can literally mean the difference between life and death, the Minister has turned her back on regional Queenslanders in place of an excuse of a system that would only be totally reliable in the South East.”

“It shouldn’t matter where you live in Queensland, you should be able to call triple-0 and know that an ambulance will come to your assistance, unfortunately under this Labor Government we know that isn’t happening in places like Collinsville.”

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