



Dale Last MP
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Shadow Minister for Police and Corrective Services, Shadow Minister for Fire and Emergency Services
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Media Release – People power will bring volunteers out of the dark

People who have been assisted by emergency services volunteers are being asked to help Shadow Minister for Emergency Services, Dale Last MP, shed light on the future of those services.

The call for assistance comes as over 560 days pass since the review of the State Emergency Service was handed to the Labor government, something Mr Last describes as a dangerous precedent.

“We have recently seen our SES volunteers rise to the challenge of flooding once again and receive the respect from the community that they well and truly deserve,” Mr Last said. “Yet, we have a state Labor government that, 560 days after receiving a report that will shape the future for those very volunteers, has done nothing.”

“Those brave volunteers who tackle fires, floods, incidents at sea and help locate missing people never ask to be paid. I’m asking the people they have assisted to ‘pay in a different way’ and help me get answers for those volunteers.”

Mr Last said that, in addition to the lengthy delay for SES volunteers, he held concerns for other volunteers awaiting the release of the review into the structure of the Queensland Fire & Emergency Service (QFES).

“The review into the structure of QFES was announced on the same day that Minister Ryan said he needed time to get fully briefed on the SES review,” Mr Last said. “More than a year later, we still don’t have the SES report and we have no commitment from the Minister to release the QFES report publicly.”

“When disaster strikes, it is the volunteers that we rely on. Unfortunately, those volunteers cannot rely on Minister Ryan or the Labor government to be honest and open with them.”

“The message is simple; if people are grateful for those volunteers, then I would say stand up for those volunteers. The petition is available via my website and, by signing it, people throughout Queensland can demand a fair go for those volunteers.”

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