



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

Burdekin Electorate Office

Shop 30 Centrepoint Arcade

AYR QLD 4807

Tel: 07 4767 0500

Freecall: 1800 817 594

Email: burdekin@parliament.qld.gov.au

August 23rd, 2021

Media Release – Government must mobilise on immobilisers

While he doubts the release of a Committee report into vehicle immobilisers will provide a “cure” for car thefts, Shadow Minister for Police, Dale Last MP, believes there is a simple step the government could take to help address the issue.

The Transport and Resources Committee will release their report today (Tuesday) into Vehicle Safety, Standards and Technology, including Engine Immobiliser Technology, but Mr Last believe they may have missed an opportunity that the government could adopt.

“The Australia New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency (ANZPAA) concluded in 2019 that it was not yet feasible to widely utilise the technology behind Remote Engine Immobilisers,¹” Mr Last said. “They concluded that it would be quite some time before a suitable REI system was created.”

“I don’t agree that there is no system that’s suitable, but I think it will come down to economies of scale and that’s where the government can play a role. A system called On Star² is fitted to General Motors (GM) made vehicles in the USA and has proven to be successful, but it is unique to GM cars.”

“There are currently other products that also offer REI but they aren’t available in Australia³.”

Mr Last said that, although the 3rd party systems claimed to work with cars manufactured from 1996 on, he believes the government should be looking to the future.

“I will support any technology that helps stop people having their cars stolen,” Mr Last said. “I’d like to see the government identify a suitable 3rd party option and fit it to all new vehicles they purchase.”

“If a manufacturer sees orders for, potentially, thousands of vehicles on offer, then you can almost guarantee they would make it available here. Consumers could then purchase them as well.”

“Even if the Committee recommends REI’s, you then have to rely on them being made compulsory from a design standard point of view and that could take years. With government vehicles turned over regularly, you could achieve something similar much, much quicker.”



“Although the government said the Inquiry was about stopping cars being stolen, that was only a small part of the Committee’s work and, frankly, I think it was a bit of an afterthought to quell public anger. Before he was booted from the Committee, the Member for Mundingburra seemed more concerned about showing convicted car thieves videos of victims⁴ than stopping cars being stolen in the first place.”

“The fact is, based on the last 6 months’ figures, on the day Les Walker was talking about turning on his car air-conditioning remotely⁵, nearly 3 cars were stolen in the Townsville local government area⁶. It’s a perfect indication of Labor’s priorities when it comes to car theft so I guess all we can do is hope the three Townsville Labor MP’s, and the Labor government as a whole, start taking this seriously soon.”

ENDS – Media Contact: David Cooper (07) 4767 0500 or 0427 834 844

Sources

1. Page 26 - https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/committees/TRC/2021/VehSafetyStdTech/rpt-23Mar21_ANZPAA.pdf
2. <https://www.onstar.com/us/en/home/>
3. <https://www.hum.com/>
4. Page 26 <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/committees/TRC/2021/VehSafetyStdTech/trns-ph-14Jun2021.pdf>
5. Page 11 <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/committees/TRC/2021/VehSafetyStdTech/trns-ph-24May2021.pdf>
6. Attached to email