



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 – Last fires up on license delays

Shadow Minister for Police and Corrective Services, Dale Last, says protracted delays and inaction on recommendations in a Queensland Audit Office report are eroding confidence in Queensland's weapons licensing system.

After receiving numerous complaints about delayed and lost applications, Mr Last said law abiding firearms owners deserved answers.

"This issue has been dragging on for months now and people deserve answers," Mr Last said. "These system failures are impacting on primary industries and, potentially, could lead to environmental damage."

"For primary producers, firearms are essentially a tool that they need in their business. These delays mean injured livestock cannot be euthanised quickly which means more suffering for animals."

Mr Last said he was aware of two cases where documents, lodged at Queensland police stations, had vanished and that incidents like those were deeply concerning.

"What we have seen is law-abiding people who have been advised that their applications have not been received," Mr Last said. "So they have done the right thing and sought assistance from their local police but documents still go missing; it makes no sense."

"Applications for weapons licenses contain a lot of private information and to have them vanish means that personal information could end up anywhere. In the Police Minister's office there will be a pile of complaints that I have lodged on behalf of people and, somewhere, is a huge pile of applications that have gone missing."

"To have an applicant told that, instead of the usual 12-week timeframe, they could wait up to six months indicates there is either a massive backlog, not enough staff or both."

"It's only 2 months since we learned that 3,000 weapons are unaccounted for so, if there are staffing issues, the Minister needs to admit that and formulate a plan to fix this debacle. People just want the truth."



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