



Dale Last MP
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Media Release – Ryan’s comments miss the mark

Shadow Minister for Police and Corrective Services, Dale Last, has accused Police Minister Mark Ryan of “papering over the cracks” in the recently passed amendments to the Youth Justice Act.

Mr Last said that, although the LNP has supported the Government’s amendments, it was important that the community understood Labor either “hadn’t got the message” or were deliberately misleading victims of crime.

“Despite what Minister Ryan may say, the young offenders who are part of the GPS monitoring trial will cut their trackers off and get away with it almost scot free,” Mr Last said. “Minister Ryan talks about charging them with wilful damage, but the evidence suggests that is little more than a slap on the wrist.”

“In the last six months in Townsville we have seen a violent adult offender cut off their tracking bracelet resulting in a sentence of three months and an order to pay \$200 restitution. Talking about penalties of up to five years in jail¹ for young offenders is a joke when an adult offender pays such a small price.”

“The reality is that, just seven months ago, a teenager who deliberately damaged \$500,000 worth of cars was let off with a caution. Yet Labor thinks we’ll believe that cutting off a taxpayer-funded GPS monitor will earn the offender a five-year term of detention.”

“What we saw in the Minister’s speech in parliament proves that he either has no understanding of law and order in this state or that his crackdown on the tough nuts is more about words than action.”

Mr Last also hit out at the behaviour of government MP’s during his speech on the amendments.

“For years now I have highlighted the issue that the failure of government departments to cooperate is contributing to youth crime,” Mr Last said. “When I said that in parliament, Labor members tried to yell me down and said it wasn’t an issue.”

“Less than 24 hours later we find out that a young offender subject to a 24 hour a day curfew had run away and wasn’t reported missing for almost 24 hours. If Labor MP’s won’t even admit there is a problem, what hope do we have of actually solving this problem?”



“What I was saying was departments can’t work in silos, they need to cooperate. In a rare moment of honesty, even the Member for Thuringowa agreed I was right² but not his colleagues.”

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Sources:

- 1 Page 75 - https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/hansard/2021/2021_04_22_DAILY.pdf
- 2 Page 65 - https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/hansard/2021/2021_04_21_DAILY.pdf