



Dale Last MP
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Media Release – Burning questions on K'gari fire

The release of the Inspector General of Emergency Management's review into the K'gari bushfire has raised more questions than answers according to Shadow Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, Dale Last MP.

Despite the government offering full support to 24 of the 38 recommendations, Mr Last said issues that have been raised in previous reviews were still affecting Queensland's response to the threat of bushfires.

"Time and time again the Labor government has been told of the importance of planning, hazard reduction, inter-agency communication and clear lines of responsibility," Mr Last said. "The K'Gari incident highlights not just the importance of those issues but also shows that the government has not fully implemented the recommendations of previous inquiries."

"The 2019 bushfire review suggested that prioritising preparation and hazard reduction needed to be controlled at a local level and that empowering local groups would reduce the risk of fire. On K'Gari the indigenous people, and the wider community, were not properly engaged with which means that the 2019 recommendation has been basically ignored."

Mr Last said that whilst mitigation and hazard reduction was important, sharing of information was also identified as a key area for improvement.

"I am very concerned by the fact that the government has only supported the recommendation to make Mitigation Plans and Risk Mapping available to the public," Mr Last said. "A key part of the community preparing for and reacting to an emergency is having access to information they need but the government seems reluctant to provide it."

"You would have to question why the government is reluctant to share information that may save homes or even lives. When it comes to implementing the recommendations, it needs to be done in a timely manner and the opposition will be holding the government to account to ensure that happens."

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