



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 Centrepont Arcade

AYR QLD 4807

Tel: 07 4767 0500

Freecall: 1800 817 594

Email: burdekin@parliament.qld.gov.au

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Media Release – Firefighter safety put on the back burner

Shadow Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, Dale Last MP, has called for a parliamentary inquiry into radio equipment supplied to Queensland’s firefighters following allegations of “Critical Safety Issues”.

Mr Last said that firefighters not only deserved equipment that increased safety but also deserved to know why no action had been taken three years after concerns were raised.

“A Committee that was formed in a partnership between Queensland Fire & Emergency Services (QFES) and the United Firefighters Union of Queensland (UFUQ) have been ignored and, possibly, covered up,” Mr Last said.

“To put it simply, the Speaker Microphones issues to most Queensland firefighters does not work to an acceptable standard in the sort of conditions those firefighters face every day. It has been three (3) years since that information came to hand, but that inadequate equipment is still being used today.”

Mr Last said he had been provided with the report prepared by the Committee and with another version that he described as ‘*sanitised*’, causing even more concern.

“The edited version of the report downplays the concerns raised by the Committee,” Mr Last said. “To have phrases like ‘critical safety issues’ removed from a report after it is finalised by the Committee indicates a level of either ignorance or worse.”

“I have called for a Parliamentary Inquiry into this issue because we need to get to the bottom of it out of respect for our firefighters. A Parliamentary Inquiry has the power to call witnesses and to order documents be provided so it is a rigorous investigation.”

“Three years of inaction on an issue that is literally life and death is simply unacceptable.”

“Every day Queenslanders rely on firefighters to save their homes, their workplaces and their lives. The least we can do is to get the truth for them and to ensure that the risks they face are minimised.”

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

Copies of reports available at: <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/tableoffice/tabledpapers/2021/5721T1417.pdf>



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