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**MEDIA RELEASE**

## **Mud larking pitched as ticket to accelerate all-tide access**

Member for Burdekin Dale Last has thrown down the gauntlet for the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services to experience first-hand, the debacle that is Molongle Creek.

During a speech in parliament this week Mr Last paid homage to the Volunteer Marine Rescue Burdekin squadron members who had given their time for the lifesaving service but said the rescue service and the community members of Cape Upstart had been let down with the Molongle Creek all-tide access project still “nothing but a dream”.

“Maintenance dredging was supposed to start on 2 July 2019, according to the Premier. According to the transport minister, the all-tide access project should have been underway at the same time and been completed by now,” Mr Last said.

“These are volunteers giving up their time to help others, yet this government will not help them, let alone the hundreds of families who visit Cape Upstart each year.”

“Instead, volunteers are either left stranded on the water awaiting a high tide and families are unable to enjoy their huts at Cape Upstart.”

Following Mr Last’s challenge the Minister was heard to say that he will be attending a tour of Molongle Creek alongside VMR Burdekin’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations which Mr Last said would be a “opportunity for the Minister to experience the debacle that is Molongle Creek”.

“Maybe when the Minister is stuck on the mudflats at the mouth of the channel waiting for the tide to come in, he will finally get this government to act.”

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