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Media Release – QFES review stuck in neutral

The Minister responsible for Queensland’s Fire and Emergency Services clearly needs to take some lessons from his firefighters on response times after delays in commencing a review of the agency’s structure according to Shadow Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, Dale Last.

Four months after Minister Mark Ryan announced a review into Queensland Fire & Emergency Services (QFES) ‘to determine whether the current structure best suits the needs’ of the community, Mr Last has questioned whether the announcement was simply a smoke screen.

“Once again a group of Queensland’s emergency providers have been let down by Labor,” Mr Last said. “It seems that Minister Ryan announced this review in an attempt to deflect the heat he was copping about the K’gari (Fraser Island) fire.”

“The Minister talked about reviewing the structure of QFES to determine what works, what doesn’t work and what works better. It’s very obvious that Minister Ryan has done no work on it himself.”

Mr Last said the lack of action was another chapter in Minister Ryan’s “ongoing plan to say a lot and do nothing”.

“No matter what the portfolio, Minister Ryan lurches from failure to failure,” he said. “This is the same Minister who said there was no crime problem and the same minister who oversaw a firefighting plane sitting on the tarmac while Fraser Island burned.”

“The brave men and women who put their lives on the line every day deserve to know what is going on with this review. It is not good enough that, four months after he announces it, Minister Ryan still doesn’t have the Terms of Reference.”

“From fighting fires and assisting at road accidents to the SES, Rural Fire Brigade and marine rescue, QFES touches the lives of Queenslanders every single day. To talk about a review and then go silent as Minister Ryan has done, is insulting to employees, volunteers and Queenslanders in general.”

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Sources: https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/hansard/2020/2020_12_14_EstimatesLAC.pdf Page 71