



Dale Last MP
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Media Release – Community deserves answers on fund

The Queensland Treasurer has “*dropped the ball*” on the Resources Community Infrastructure Fund according to Member for Burdekin and Shadow Minister for Rural and Regional Affairs, Dale Last.

More than ten months after Treasurer Cameron Dick embraced the fund as a part of Queensland’s recovery from COVID-19, Minister Dick has now distanced himself from the fund according to Mr Last.

“This fund was touted as providing benefits to the communities where resource workers and their families live,” Mr Last said. “There’s no evidence that any benefits have been provided and the Treasurer has now handballed responsibility for the fund to the Deputy Premier.”

“The people who live and work in places like the Bowen Basin contribute more than \$5 Billion in royalties to the Queensland government, but you only have to look at the roads in the area, as one example, to see that there is very little return to those communities for that contribution.”

Mr Last said his Question on Notice related to when the Advisory Committee established to make recommendations on the funding would announce its recommendations but that the response made him question whether the assessment process had even commenced.

“The Treasurer’s response left a lot to be desired,” Mr Last said. “People are sick and tired of this government yelling from the rooftops about minor achievements but cutting and running when they have failed to deliver.”

“For a senior minister like the Treasurer to stand up, less than a year ago, and talk about how good this fund is and then, when asked a simple question, to pass the buck indicates not much has happened.”

“When the person in charge of the state’s finances says he will ‘deliver for regional resource communities¹’, people should be able to assume he will. To date he has delivered little, if anything.”

“The residents of our Rural and Regional Communities, particularly our mining communities deserve to know what is happening with the \$100m in this fund and when will they see some action on the ground”.

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Source 1: <https://statements.qld.gov.au/statements/89838>

Question on Notice and reply available here:

<https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/tableOffice/questionsAnswers/2021/49-2021.pdf>