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**MEDIA RELEASE**

## **BABY STEP FORWARD, TWO STEPS BACK**

Member for Burdekin Dale Last has called on the Minister to shed some light on a review that aimed to give expectant Bowen parents some certainty.

Mr Last said a year on from the announcement, residents were still in the dark and unaware of whether the review had been completed or not.

“We are 12 months down the track from the announcement and all we have received is radio silence,” Mr Last said.

“It should not take this long to review current services because there are none.”

Mr Last said the announcement made early in 2020 was that a planning tool was to be rolled out to help examine what services were needed in the area.

“There was nothing in the announcement that guarantees children will be born in Bowen any time soon but at least it was a step forward in the right direction.”

“Now 12 months on from the announcement of that step forward it seems as though we have instead been left at a standstill.”

“This issue has been on the radar with the current government for quite some time and it is only because of community cooperation that we have been able to get this far.”

Mr Last said the review could have been a good illustration of whether the current government was really committed to health services in Bowen.

“Unfortunately the illustration is appalling and it is the people of Bowen who are left in the dark.”

**ENDS** - Media Contact: Mikayla Mayoh 07 47670500 or 0488195127