

Office of Dale Last MP | Member for Burdekin

Shadow Minister for Police & Corrective Services, Shadow Minister for Fire & Emergency Services, Shadow Minister for Rural & Regional Affairs



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MEDIA RELEASE

Goat track a goer thanks to people power

Member for Burdekin, Dale Last, has welcomed the commitment to upgrades of the Peak Downs Highway in today's state budget but said credit for the road upgrades also belongs to the federal LNP government.

Mr Last has also questioned the state government's geography skills, claiming the budget documents show the current government has no appreciation for the distances regional Queenslanders travel.

"Given the carnage we have seen on the Peak Downs Highway I welcome every single dollar that is put into making that road safer," Mr Last said. "We need to acknowledge that this project is being delivered in partnership with the federal government and I welcome that cooperation on such an important issue."

"We need to be realistic and understand that what is budgeted is work on approximately 13km of a road that is 175km long. I would prefer to see much more but it is good to see Labor has finally realised that road is an issue."

"The people who live and work around the Peak Downs Highway deserve a safer road but they also deserve credit for pushing this issue because, as the local member, it makes it much easier to get these kinds of projects underway when they have widespread, passionate support."

"The challenge now is to ensure the work starts as soon as possible. I will be keeping a close eye on both the state and federal governments to ensure we see actual improvement in the near future."

"Even when that part of the road is fixed, there's still another 160km that needs attention so the campaign will continue."

Mr Last said one specific commitment in the budget promised much but delivered absolutely nothing.

"The budget papers mention a replacement Police facility at Clermont but there is no mention of actual funding," Mr Last said. "When it comes to buildings and the like, they don't just appear by magic."

"I've been calling for better facilities for Police in Clermont for over three years now and, while it looks promising, I don't see how anything will actually happen without funding. Talk is cheap and even planning for a new building costs money but there's no money allocated."

"I sincerely hope the government isn't trying to pull the wool over our eyes on that project."

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