



Dale Last MP
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Media Release – Mining for answers 3 years on

Three years after the Goonyella Mine fire the truth remains hidden according to Member for Burdekin and Shadow Minister for Rural and Regional Queensland, Dale Last MP.

Despite preliminary findings being published in August 2019 and the Queensland Mines Inspectorate confirming the report had been finalised almost a year ago, Mr Last said mine staff and mining communities were still none the wiser.

“It is extremely concerning that the finalised report still hasn’t been released,” Mr Last said. “We are very fortunate that no one was killed as a result of this incident but that is no excuse for the report not being made public.”

“The last we heard was that some witnesses, including government staff had refused to give evidence. In the interests of mine safety, you would think that they would have been completed by law to give evidence by now.”

Mr Last said he had hoped that a new Minister would mean a new approach to mine safety but was concerned that this wasn’t the case.

“Under the previous Minister, changes to mine safety legislation were only made after we saw fatalities in the sector,” Mr Last said. “It’s now almost 10 months since the election and we’ve seen little to no action from the new Minister.”

“The delays in releasing the report mean that safety issues that may be highlighted in that report haven’t been addressed and it also means that we are quickly approaching the point where legal action under the Coal Mining Act will be impossible.”

“There is no point in the Act having provisions for prosecutions when delays mean those prosecutions aren’t possible. If there has been breaches of safety laws, then someone needs to be held to account.”

“The Minister needs to ensure the report is released as soon as possible because just delayed is justice denied and denying the opportunity to improve mine safety is an injustice to the people who work in our mines and their families.”



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