



Dale Last MP
Member for Burdekin

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

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Media Release – Last demands action on AWU lies

To maintain any integrity with primary producers, the Queensland Labor government needs to return any donations received from the Australian Workers Union (AWU) and rule out accepting any further donations according to Shadow Minister for Rural & Regional Affairs, Dale Last MP.

The only alternative, according to Mr Last, was for the Queensland Labor government to admit they had failed workers throughout the state.

“For the AWU National Secretary and Labor Senators to say there is a culture of exploitation in the farming industry is highly offensive to farmers and proves failures by state governments including the Queensland government,” Mr Last said. “Rather than alleging a whole industry exploits people the AWU should be ensuring states are using their powers to weed out any rotten apples in the industry.”

“In large parts of Queensland, seasonal workers are provided to farms by labour hire companies. When I became aware of a possible issue involving treatment of workers by a labour hire company, I immediately contacted the Queensland Minister for Industrial Relations who advised the issues would be investigated.”

“The Labour Hire Licensing Compliance Unit is an entity of the Queensland Labor government. If workers are being treated poorly by labour hire companies it is the responsibility of the Queensland government to investigate and take action.”

Mr Last said supporting the “smear on farmers” by the AWU was in direct opposition to the Queensland Labor government’s claims of supporting primary industry.

“As recently as Tuesday we had Labor members stand up in parliament and talk about their support for primary producers,” Mr Last said. “To do that and then accept donations from a union who says exploitation is a part of farmer’s business models is hypocritical to say the least.”

“You either support farmers or you support the Union who is falsely accusing them. The Premier needs to stand up and say who she supports and, if it is the farmers, return the more than \$18,000 the AWU has donated to Queensland Labor and refuse to accept any further donations.”



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