



Dale Last MP
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Monday, 21 February 2022

Media Release – Drone announcement is ‘pie in the sky’

Shadow Police Minister, Dale Last MP, has labelled an announcement of ‘military-grade’ drones in Townsville and Cairns a backflip by the Labor government but says questions need to be answered.

Mr Last joined the LNP’s candidate for Mundingburra prior to the last state election to call for drones to be made available for Police in Townsville but Police Minister Mark Ryan said appropriate resources were already on hand¹, leaving Mr Last to question the Minister’s honesty.

“Almost two years ago, we called for drones to be provided to Police in Townsville to help with tracking down stolen cars,” Mr Last said. “It’s taken almost two years and almost 2,000 charges for Unlawful Use of a Motor Vehicle² for Labor to realise the merit in our request.”

“During those two years, people in the South East have been able to have a pizza delivered by drone while the people of Townsville and Cairns have had to watch their vehicles getting stolen and trashed.”

Mr Last also called into question the timeline for introduction of the drones.

“As recently as late last year, Minister Ryan tried to blame the federal government for Police not being able to fully utilise drones³,” Mr Last said. “The fact is the Queensland Labor government had not applied for the same permit that pizza companies had applied for.”

“To now say that they don’t need a permit is yet another backflip by Minister Ryan and Labor. People in Townsville and Cairns want some consistency, not a Minister that backflips more often than a circus clown.”

“We also want to be treated equally when it comes to tackling crime. If those 2,000 stolen vehicles were worth \$20,000 each, that’s \$40M worth of stolen vehicles in Townsville alone while the Minister has sat on his hands.”

“For that \$40M the victims of crime in Townsville get more hypocrisy and more backflips from Labor. I wouldn’t call that good value for money and I doubt the victims of crime would either.”



“While the South East corner gets three new helicopters, the residents of North Queensland have to make do with drones and that simply confirms what I have been saying all along and that is, this Minister is treating North Queenslanders like second class citizens.”

ENDS – Media Contact: David Cooper (07) 4767 0500 or 0427 834 844

Sources:

1. [LNP calls for Townsville police to use more drones | Townsville Bulletin](#)
2. See attached
3. [1106-2021.pdf \(parliament.qld.gov.au\)](#)