

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

Last questions secrets on road safety

A dramatic backflip on road safety on the Bruce Highway south of Townsville needs to be explained according to Member for Burdekin, Dale Last.

Despite repeated advice from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (TMR) stating that the stretch of road was safe, a TMR spokesperson has now admitted “*upgrades were being considered*” in a statement to the ABC.

“The stretch of road between Zinc Road and Cape Cleveland Road is one that I have been calling for upgrades to for years now,” Mr Last said. “Of course I welcome the consideration of safety upgrades but I question the sudden change in attitude.”

“For the last three years we have been told that the road is safe which has left residents and road users asking how that could be the case. Now, all of sudden, we hear there may be upgrades.”

“Tragically we have had 17 lives lost in the last 18 years and it makes you wonder whether there is some type of macabre threshold?”

Mr Last said that, now the government had admitted there was a problem, he wanted to see the design works under way as soon as possible and also requested a briefing on what the actual issues are.

“It’s obvious that you don’t move towards design work without identifying what needs to change,” Mr Last said.

“Minister Bailey needs to make public what the issues are so that, in the interim, people can take extra care.”

“After all, it is taxpayer’s money that has been used to identify the issues and knowledge is power when it comes to reducing the road toll.”

“I note that the spokesperson says there is a need for funding from both the state and federal governments for design and construction work. I’m more than happy to pursue that funding from both levels of government if it’s going to make that road safer.”

“The petition I recently launched via my website is all about being able to sit down with state and federal ministers and say ‘this is what the voters want’ so the more people who sign the petition, the more chance we have of securing the necessary commitments and funding.”

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