



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

Burdekin Electorate Office

Shop 30 Centrepoint Arcade

AYR QLD 4807

Tel: 07 4767 0500

Freecall: 1800 817 594

Email: burdekin@parliament.qld.gov.au

September 29th, 2021

Media Release – Last lashes out at so-called regional forum

Member for Burdekin, Dale Last MP, has asked a simple question with regards to Monday's Ayr Regional Forum; "what has it delivered"?

Mr Last described the attendance of 2 Ministers and an assistant minister as a "box ticking exercise" and labelled their appearance as "sneaky".

"What we saw on Monday was a couple of Labor members, ministers and an assistant minister sneak into town for some photos and to tick a box," he said. "You only have to look at the program's website for proof that, since August last year, nothing has happened."

"The Burdekin community has a right to ask, what did they bring to town and what commitments have they made for our community going forward? Talk is cheap, we want to see some real commitments from this Labor Government."

"The Police Minister's attendance is an insult because, almost 3 years ago at a Community Crime Forum, he promised to come back and update residents who expressed real concern. Since then, he has snuck into town twice but hasn't had the guts to look those same people in the eye again."

"During the Estimates hearings last December, I asked the Minister for Rural Communities what engagement he had actually undertaken with rural communities. He dodged the question then and, from what we saw on Monday, ignoring the real issues in rural communities remains Labor's attitude."

Mr Last said Burdekin residents would see straight through "Labor's charade".

"Labor Ministers can pose for all the photos they like but locals know that the current government, as a whole, has failed them," Mr Last said. "People will never forget that it was the same government who portrayed our farmers as environmental vandals and the same government that denied there was a problem with youth crime."

"To try and cover their tracks, they have recruited well-meaning members of the community but one quick glance at the programs website shows four meetings over a 10-month period with no further information."



“Perhaps those Ministers would like to come back to the Burdekin and front up to locals. Until they do that, all the photos in the world won’t achieve much at all for our district.”

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

North and North West Queensland

The North and North West Queensland Regional Community Forum representatives are:

- Scott Stewart MP (Chair)
- Aaron Harper MP (Chair)
- Anita Brooker
- Brendon Marty
- Bruce Cornish
- Candi Dempster
- Cathy Crawford
- Dana Crowther
- Deborah Crombie
- Debra Burden
- Helen Dixon
- Jean Stone
- Judah Morris
- Kari Arbouin
- Karl McKenzie
- Kendall Santillan
- Lynette Clout
- Pete Fornasier
- Sarah Wilkinson
- Susan Wilson
- Teresa Hudson
- Warren Horne

Forums have been held on:

- Monday 28 October 2019 – [read the communiqué to find out what happened at the Forum](#) (PDF, 125KB)
- Monday 24 February 2020
- Tuesday 23 June 2020
- Monday 3 August 2020

Mackay/Isaac/Whitsunday +

Western Queensland +

Central Queensland +

Wide Bay/Burnett/Fraser Coast +

Darling Downs South West Queensland +

Source: <https://campaigns.premiers.qld.gov.au/advancing-qld-regions/#nq>