



Dale Last MP
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Shadow Minister for Police and Corrective Services, Shadow Minister for Fire and Emergency Services
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Media Release – Triple the crime, half the funding

Despite unlawful entry offences in the Townsville Police District more than tripling in the past year, funding for resources to tackle crime in the area have been cut by more than half in the recent budget according to Shadow Minister for Police and Corrective Services, Dale Last MP.

Mr Last said that “Justice and public safety” was allocated \$16.5M in the 2020-21 state budget¹ but that, after crunching the numbers, the 2021-22 budget included capital expenditure of \$7.1M² and that was the best case scenario.

“In June 2020 there were 174 Unlawful Entry offences but in May 2021 there was nearly 600³,” Mr Last said. Even if you factor every possible government entity with a responsibility for crime, the fact is the capital budget for the next financial year has been more than halved.”

“Again, we have seen the Labor government try to hide the cuts by changing the way the figures are reported but there is no hiding the fact that their response to a tripling in break and enters is to slash the budget and that is simply not good enough.”

“Peoples’ homes and businesses are being targeted by criminals at an alarming rate and the Labor government’s response is to throw their hands in the air and give up. If you take May 2021 figures, there was an unlawful entry committed in Townsville every 48 minutes.”

Mr Last said that the figures on car thefts were even more alarming.

“In June 2020 there were 38 unlawful use of a motor vehicle offences in Townsville compared to 188 in May 2021,” he said. “People have been begging for answers on crime in Townsville for ages now and the Police Minister needs to look people in the eye and explain these cuts.”

“The three Labor MP’s have failed dismally when it comes to getting funding to tackle the biggest problem facing Townsville right now. To cut the funding for resources to put these criminals behind bars where they belong proves that they talk a big game here in the North but, when they get to Brisbane, they simply fail to stand up for victims of crime in Townsville.”

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Sources:

1. https://budget.qld.gov.au/files/BP3_Appendix_C_Capital_purchases_by_entity_by_region_2021-22.pdf - Page 4 "Justice & public safety"
2. https://s3.treasury.qld.gov.au/files/2020_21_Capital_Statement_Budget_3-2.pdf - Page 105 - sum of Children, Youth Justice & Multicultural Affairs, Justice and Attorney-General, Queensland Corrective Services & Queensland Police Service
3. <https://mypolice.qld.gov.au/townsville/queensland-crime-statistics/> - Unlawful Entry & Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle