

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

Highway diversion could be deadly too

Member for Burdekin, Dale Last, has called for the urgent replacement of single lane bridges on the Giru-Woodstock Road in light of the recent fatal accident on the Bruce Highway south of Townsville.

With the highway closed for emergency services and repairs, traffic was diverted via the Giru-Woodstock Road which, according to Mr Last, was a recipe for disaster.

“The Giru-Woodstock road is simply not capable of handling large volumes of traffic diverted from the highway,” Mr Last said. “The single lane bridges along that road are dangerous at the best of times but, with increased traffic, are an accident waiting to happen.”

“Locals have been calling for those single lane bridges to be replaced for years and I have supported their calls based on the issues they experience with the regular traffic flow, let alone the traffic from the Bruce Highway.”

Mr Last said locals who lived along the road had collectively held their breath waiting for an accident during the diversion but it was not something that was new to them.

“There is a lot of vehicles carrying produce and supplies on any given day,” Mr Last said. “It’s daunting when you pass a regular sized vehicle on sections of that road, let alone passing vehicles like B-doubles that would have needed to use the road yesterday (Wednesday).”

“It sounds dramatic but the locals will tell you that it is literally just a matter of time before there is a nasty accident on one of those bridges and it’s a disgrace that, in 2020, people who live in rural areas have to put up with roads with single lane bridges.”

“There were reports of vehicles not giving way on the single lane bridges and the speed limit being ignored during the diversion. I know of at least one person who basically sat at home on Wednesday waiting for when they would need to call the Ambulance.”

“The government says it wants to see regional areas grow but that won’t happen while we have second or third-world roads with single lane bridges.”

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