



December 12th, 2019

MEDIA RELEASE

Entering the fight for Gumlu

Member for Burdekin, Dale Last, is keeping up the pressure for road projects between Home Hill and Bowen and has highlighted the safety aspect of one particular stretch of road.

The turn off into the township of Gumlu has been the scene of several accidents in recent years and Mr Last has questioned whether enough is being done to improve safety in the area.

“In mid-2018 there was funding made available for Township Entry Treatment (TET) at Gumlu but, I am not convinced that is the solution,” Mr Last said.

“I fully support anything to improve safety but I think what is really needed is a dedicated turning lane.”

“We are basically asking vehicles to come to a complete halt so someone can turn into Gumlu, especially when there is heavy northbound traffic.”

“If you had a dedicated turning lane then vehicles can wait safely there and the rest of the traffic can keep moving; I think it’s common sense.”

The TET project includes line marking, larger speed signs and other measures to reinforce the need for vehicles to slow down and, while the project has been shown to be effective, Mr Last said he wasn’t 100% convinced it would fix the problem at Gumlu.

“This is the national highway so you have a wide variety of vehicles and, some of the larger vehicles, just can’t physically stop quickly,” he said. “Even at slower speeds, vehicles like semi trailers need a fair distance to stop so I’m not sure this is the cure for the current problem.”

“In the short term, if TET fixes the problem then that is a great outcome but I think road safety is worth more than paint and signs.”

“I’m quite happy to take the fight for a dedicated turning lane to the state and federal governments because it shouldn’t matter if you live in a city or a small town like Gumlu, we all deserve safe roads.”

ENDS - Media Contact: David Cooper (07) 4764 0500 or 0427 834 844