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**MEDIA RELEASE**

## **Stranded travellers left in corner**

As a half-a billion-dollar project to improve flood immunity in the North nears completion Member for Burdekin Dale Last fears a failure to commit to fixing a key flooding area of the Bruce highway will only see drivers stranded less than 100km down the road.

After flooding at Plantation Creek left Bruce Highway travellers stranded twice in the last three years Mr Last said he had repeatedly raised the flood-prone section of the highway to the Minister for Transport.

“Only a month after we saw flooding at Plantation Creek close the highway, we heard the Minister commit to a hydrology study which we as a community cautiously welcomed,” Mr Last said.

“Now more than a year on from that study announcement we find out it’s not even complete and it’s likely any plan to fix the highway at Plantation Creek has been pushed into the never never.”

“In the meantime we are staring down the barrel of another upcoming wet season where, if the north receives a significant rain event, will see travellers stuck once again, just further down the highway.”

Mr Last said while the Minister indicated plans to develop a Burdekin deviation, it was still early days and would be years before North Queensland saw the outcome on those plans.

“Every year we are told to prepare and get ready for the wet season, but the reality is the state government is not prepared when it comes to North Queensland and it is travellers who rely on that highway that will be let down.”

“We asked for a fair go for the north when it came to alleviating a flood prone area of the highway and what we received is delays which now could push out for years.”

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