



**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 Centrepont Arcade

AYR QLD 4807

Tel: 07 4767 0500

Freecall: 1800 817 594

Email: [burdekin@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:burdekin@parliament.qld.gov.au)

August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Media Release – Minister says value of goods “irrelevant”**

The Palaszczuk Labor government has taken their eyes off the ball when it comes to youth crime according to Shadow Minister for Police & Corrective Services, Dale Last MP.

Mr Last said that, while residents of Townsville and other centres already believed it was the case, today's (Thursday) Estimates Hearing proved their belief was, in fact, factual.

“When I asked questions that are directly relevant to the youth crime epidemic, the Minister refused to answer,” Mr Last said. “He wouldn't even allow the Commissioner to provide information on the value of stolen property and vehicles in Townsville.”

“Minister Ryan obviously has no idea how Police operate because it is standard practice for Police to record the value of stolen property. In fact, one of the considerations when it comes to sentencing for the offence of stealing is the value of items.”

“For the Minister to say that the value of stolen goods is irrelevant is disrespectful to victims of his government's failure to address youth crime. If victims ever wondered if the Minister for Police actually cared about them, they have the answer, and the answer is no.”

Mr Last said that Minister Ryan's responses to questions at the Estimates Hearing would erode any confidence Queenslanders had in him even further.

“The reviews into the Rapid Action Patrol Group and the Townsville Stronger Community Action Group have been sitting on the Minister's desk for months now,” Mr Last said. “Both of those reviews are essential in combatting crime in Townsville, but the Minister would not commit to releasing them.”

“In addition to disrespecting victims of crime, Minister Ryan has shown that he also has little respect for taxpayers, who are his boss.”

“It is the taxpayers that provide the budget the Minister spends and being a victim of crime has both mental health and financial impacts. The Minister might think the effect on victims' budgets is irrelevant but I can assure him it is absolutely relevant to the victim.



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