

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

30 million times softer on crime

Massive budget cuts and being bogged down with administration tasks are just two of the issues Queensland's police officers will face according to former Police Officer and Shadow Minister for Police and Corrective Services, Dale Last.

As the Labor government seeks to rein in spending, Mr Last has expressed concerns that life will become easier for criminals and harder for law enforcement.

"Our Police Officers are busting their guts to reduce crime," Mr Last said. "Yet the reward for their hard work from this Labor government is to tell them to cut their expenditure by almost \$30 million this financial year."

"The government talks about achieving this through measures such as workforce changes, structural reform and reviews of agency functions. In layman's terms that means less services, less local knowledge and less police on the beat."

"The government's plan also talks about reallocating tasks to frontline roles. We need our police officers investigating, responding to and deterring crime; not completing administration tasks."

Mr Last said the government needs to "come clean" on how it expects the savings to be achieved and said that "generic statements" weren't good enough.

Of the six workstreams the government has established to find savings, very few apply to our Police," Mr Last said. "It leaves very little room for the nearly \$30 Million in savings that Labor demands they make."

"Corrective Services have almost \$5 Million in savings to make as well. It's not like our police or our prisons advertise their services and can cut back; those two departments, for example, provide essential services to keep our communities safe."

"In the last week we have seen a government that has borrowed 7 times what they said they would but still needs to cut services and burden front line staff with administration work. Our police and prisons staff have a hard enough job as it is without Labor axing workers and cutting resources."

"The question that needs to be asked is why wasn't the Treasurer up front with Queenslanders before the election about these impending budget cuts."

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Sources: <https://budget.qld.gov.au/highlights/#queenslands-economic-recovery>