



Dale Last MP
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Media Release – Government needs to fight fires on a new frontier

Reduced damage to Queensland’s environment, the creation of jobs and the potential to save homes and even lives are on offer if the Queensland Government is true to its word according to Shadow Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, Dale Last.

Following a demonstration of the *Fire Urgency Estimator in Geostationary Orbit* (FUEGO) system in Noosa earlier this year, Mr Last said there was an opportunity for Queensland to become a space industry leader but that the opportunity was being missed by the Queensland Government.

“We have a Queensland company, Gilmour Space, who want to launch satellites from North Queensland but, for some reason, the Queensland government seems reluctant to support them,” Mr Last said. “Until recently, I saw the Gilmour Space proposal as a way to create jobs, and it still is, but it is also about keeping Queenslanders safer.”

“The FUEGO system utilises sensors that are ground-based as well as satellites to help identify fires earlier. According to CSIRO, fires grow by up to 300% within two hours of ignition so, the reality is, the sooner we know there is a fire, the sooner we can assess what we need to do to protect both the environment and structures like homes.”

Mr Last said that most people would expect the Queensland Government to be *‘shouting from the rooftops’* about Queensland-based companies whose goal is to embrace the next space race but that, to date, support had been *‘lukewarm at best’*.

“Launching Australian satellites into space from Queensland is a new opportunity and you can’t deny that there will be hurdles to jump,” Mr Last said. “Gilmour Space is working diligently on the testing of their rockets to launch satellites, but the Queensland government has done next to nothing in terms of helping this industry get off the ground; excuse the pun.”

“The coastline in North Queensland is an ideal area to launch from geographically and, from a job creation point of view, the space industry would be a god send. Add in the opportunity to make a difference when it comes to protecting Queenslanders from bushfires and you really have to question what more it will take for the Queensland government to support this.”



“The work being done by Queenslanders on the exploration of Mars proves we have the ability to be a player in the next space race, but I think we also need to embrace the benefits that are available closer to home.”

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