



Dale Last MP
Member for Burdekin

Shadow Minister for Police and Corrective Services, Shadow Minister for Fire and Emergency Services
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Media Release – \$22M road works to nowhere

A \$22M road project to improve road safety in the Bowen area has stalled and local sub-contractors may be left out of pocket according to the Member for Burdekin, Dale Last MP.

Mr Last said the state Labor government had ‘dropped the ball’ when it came to the due diligence, resulting in losses for businesses, more delays for road users and, possibly, an increase in the cost of the project to taxpayers.

“Whether these contractors and sub-contractors get paid remains to be seen,” Mr Last said. “If they don’t we could well see a flow on effect on future projects where local job generation is not possible.”

“It is completely unacceptable that a business working on a government project, regardless of whether they are contractors or sub-contractors, could be left in limbo wondering if they will get paid. The Labor state government needs to step in and ensure that these payments are made.”

Mr Last said it was hypocritical for the state government to target developers on the topic of ensuring payment for sub-contractors when the state government itself had failed sub-contractors.

“The federal government has contributed the lion’s share of the funding for this project but, at the end of the day, the appointment of contractors is the responsibility of the state government,” Mr Last said.

“The buck stops with the Labor state government and any financial pain felt by sub-contractors is due to the failings of the Queensland Labor state government.”

“In regional Queensland we already have to fight tooth and nail for road upgrades, so this is a kick in the guts for anyone using that section of the highway. I am deeply concerned about how long it will take to find someone to take the project over and the cost of that process.”

“We are constantly told that local contractors are important because it ensures existing jobs and creates new jobs. In addition to the threat posed to the existing sub-contractors, there is also the threat that they may not tender for work in the future because of this experience.”



“That would be a disaster for the local economy and the state Labor government needs to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that does not happen. Anything less will be another example of regional Queensland being treated as second class citizens, and second class businesses.”

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