

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

Budget proof that Labor under-delivers on police

Promises to bolster the number of Police on Queensland's streets in today's state budget are "effectively worthless" according to Shadow Minister for Police and Corrective Services, Dale Last.

Budget documents revealed today that, during the 2019-2020 financial year, 222 fewer Police Officers were employed compared to that year's budget and that the number of officers was actually lower than the previous financial year.

"Once again today, the Labor government has talked about increasing Police numbers, but the truth is they have overseen the opposite," Mr Last said. "It's right there in black and white that the number of officers was lower than the budget and also over 120 lower than 2018-19."

"The Treasurer talked the big game today with a commitment for an additional 2025 police officers in Queensland, but when you look at their track record you have to question whether they have the ability to actually deliver these extra officers."

"This Labor government is on notice, especially when it comes to law and order. If you commit to something, you'd better actually deliver it, or we will hold you to account and make sure Queenslanders do too."

Having spent 25 years in a police uniform, Mr Last said the failure to deliver the promised number of officers had an effect on public safety as well as crime.

"This year has been one of the most deadly on Queensland roads," Mr Last said. "You really have to question if extra officers would have meant more officers patrolling our roads and an increased deterrent to dangerous behaviour."

"It's also a fact that a blue uniform or a police vehicle deters property crime and crimes against the person, so Minister Ryan's failure has repercussions throughout the state."

"The government has gone away from breaking down the number of staff by Road Safety and Crime & Public Order roles, so we really don't know where the shortfall is at this stage."

"By the time the budget process wraps up, Queenslanders will know exactly where Labor has failed them when it comes to the number of police officers and they are on notice that we expect commitments to be honoured."

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Sources: 2019-20 staff numbers (pages 7 & 10): <https://s3.treasury.qld.gov.au/files/2019-20-Police-and-Public-Safety-Portfolio-SDS.pdf>

2020-21 staff numbers (page 180) https://budget.qld.gov.au/files/SDS_1.pdf