



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 – Blue Water commitment all at sea

A commitment to fund the implementation of the Blue Water Review into marine rescue has been left in tatters following the release of the Queensland State Budget according to Shadow Minister for Fire and Emergency Service, Dale Last MP.

With a dramatic overhaul of the marine rescue services provided by volunteers recommended by the Blue Water Review, Mr Last said the government had made promises that they simply had failed to deliver on.

“Minister Ryan has taken the thousands of marine rescue volunteers for granted,” Mr Last said. “The Minister and the Labor government promised money for new vessels and an ‘ongoing commitment’ but, when it came time to pay up on their promises, there was nothing.”

“In fact, the Capital Statement for the budget does not include the word ‘volunteer’ at all. There is not a mention of Volunteer Marine Rescue, Coast Guard or the Blue Water Review and that is confirmation that Labor’s promise has not just been broken, but it’s been set adrift.”

Mr Last said that commitments were made to the rescue organisations throughout Queensland by Labor during the election campaign, including in his own electorate.

“Minister Ryan has confirmed in writing a \$17.383 million vessel replacement program but has delivered nothing,” Mr Last said. “To add insult to injury, Minister Ryan says that the Labor government delivers on its promises in the same letter; something that is clearly untrue.”

“When it comes to volunteers who assist when we need them the most, this budget is about deception and broken promises. Whether it is on the water, or on the land, when it comes to volunteers this budget offers precious little.”

“We have a government that loves to talk about the value of emergency services volunteers and pose for photos with them, but it is out and out deception. These brave men and women deserve respect and honesty, not Labor’s deceitful sleight of hand.”

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