

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

Why no support for blue?

Proud Queenslander, former Police Officer and Shadow Minister for Police and Corrective Services, Dale Last, wants to know why the Premier and Police Minister refuse to support Queensland's men and women in blue.

On the same day that over 50,000 maroons supporters packed into Suncorp Stadium, Mr Last said a vital team wearing blue were left, effectively, without support.

"Whenever State of Origin comes around my support is 100% behind the mighty Queenslanders," Mr Last said. "But I will always support our police and to see 79 new officers graduate without the support of their family and friends is a disgrace."

"Events like State of Origin are important, but you have to ask why, on the same day, we can't properly acknowledge people who are taking a pledge to serve and protect Queenslanders."

Mr Last said that he understood the need for restrictions during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic but that the oversight on allowing families of graduating officers to attend the graduation was an insult.

"Every day Queenslanders call on our Police for assistance and the COVID-19 pandemic saw them step up yet again," he said. "If arrangements can be changed for Suncorp Stadium with a just few days' notice then surely arrangements for our new Police Officers can be amended too."

"When the new Parliament sits for the first time this week, we are allowed guests but people who will literally be called on to put their lives on the line aren't shown the same decency."

"All Queenslanders welcome additional Police and we support them in what is a very challenging job. It's disappointing that the Premier and the Police Minister, on this occasion, didn't show the same level of support."

"The Police Minister, at a bare minimum, owes the new constables and their families an apology and I think Queenslanders will want to know why Police weren't afforded the same respect as football players."

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