



Dale Last MP
Member for Burdekin

Shadow Minister for Police and Corrective Services, Shadow Minister for Fire and Emergency Services
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March 11th, 2021

Media Release – Last welcomes crime hearing

Member for Burdekin and Shadow Minister for Police and Corrective Services, Dale Last, has welcomed the announcement of hearings into Youth Justice amendments in Townsville, Cairns and Mount Isa.

The Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, which is examining the amendments, announced the hearings today following efforts by Mr Last and other LNP members to ensure regional Queenslanders were able to have their say.

“Youth Justice is an issue that effects the whole state and is of particular concern in places like Townsville,” Mr Last said. “That’s why I called for these hearings and those calls were supported by LNP members of the Committee and, thankfully, by the Committee itself.”

“These hearings will provide the opportunity for victims of crime, as well as frontline workers, to tell their story, offer their suggestions and give their feedback. It’s a vital part of democracy and it’s vital that people make themselves heard.”

Mr Last said, with just over 8 hours of hearing time allocated to Townsville, there was an opportunity for residents to make it clear they expected action on crime.

“As with all other hearings there is an application process to apply to be a witness,” Mr Last said.

“Effectively, anyone who speaks can, and will most likely, be questioned by Committee Members so it’s something that requires some thought but it’s also the best chance to make a difference.”

“The Committee won’t be trying to discredit people but their role is to ensure they get the information they need and that can mean asking questions.”

“It’s also very important to know that the hearings are open to the public so anyone with an interest in youth crime should attend if possible. Let’s face it, that’s most of us.”

“I will be applying to attend the hearing and ask some questions myself because I know that the information that Townsville people have to share with the Committee will be valuable information and will help make a difference.”

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Hearing details available here: <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-committees/committees/LASC/inquiries/current-inquiries/YJandOLAB2021>