




Speech By
Dale Last

MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

Record of Proceedings, 20 May 2020

MOTION

Coronavirus, Economic Response

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (4.28 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, as the shadow minister for North Queensland, I can assure you that this government's so-called economic response plan falls a long way short of what is required to get the north and regional Queensland back up and running. That comes as no surprise after we saw the cabinet reshuffle last week. One would think that was an opportunity for the Premier to appoint a minister for North Queensland—but no. There was no minister for North Queensland appointed, and so we continue the long and sorry saga under the watch of this Labor government.

It is clear that this government does not have a plan for the regions when it comes in here and attacks two of Queensland's key industries. Isn't it surprising then that the Premier has come in here tonight and is all of a sudden talking up the resources sector and the agricultural sector when they have been kicking those two sectors for the last four years? It was only a week and a half ago when we had a deputy premier who said there was no future for coalmines in this state and who told our coalminers to go and re-skill. Now the Premier has the audacity to come in here tonight and start talking up the resources sector and the agricultural sector. It would not have anything to do with royalties, would it?—with the money that is flowing into the 'tower of power' across the road, with royalties flowing out of our regions and out of my electorate of Burdekin? My constituents in the Burdekin have had enough. They are fed up.

What have we seen this week? We have seen a roads stimulus package where just 12 per cent of the new funding is heading north of Proserpine. Perhaps the transport minister, who is sitting over there, could get the Premier in the car and drive from Cape York to Proserpine—1,611 kilometres—and have a look at the state of the road. The amount of funding that has been allocated north of Proserpine would not paint a dotted line from Cape York to Proserpine, let alone fund the road upgrades and the road widening and build the bridges that we need in that area.

If you want to have a look at some shocking roads, come out to my patch where we are still driving on unsealed roads, where the local residents are choking on dust from the 24/7 road trains that are going past their front doors, where the mums and dads are driving their kids to school every single day on dirt roads and choking on dust, putting their lives at risk. One has to ask why—for an area that is pumping \$5 billion in royalties into this state—some of that money is not coming back to our patch. Why are we still driving around on roads where you need a helmet on in your car because you spend more time hitting the roof of the car than hitting the seat? They are nothing more than goat tracks. Only the LNP will deliver.

(Time expired)