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**MEDIA RELEASE**

## **Last: Budget a great western hijack**

One month and two days after the Queensland Labor Government heard they had failed hardworking Queenslanders in the Bowen Basin, Member for Burdekin Dale Last said the 2021/2022 State Budget was a renewal notice for another 12 months of ignorance by the current government.

Mr Last said with a chronic teacher shortage in Dysart, the Peak Downs Highway and Kilcummin Diamond Downs Road likened to a goat track and a termite infestation at the Moranbah Hospital, this week's budget should have been the chance to show the Isaac region the government had listened.

"This is a region that contributes billions to the Queensland economy and earns the government billions in royalties, yet when it came time to invest in those communities, their children and the hardworking people of those regions, the Labor government has forgotten them," Mr Last said.

"Clermont should be looking forward to a new police station in their town this year after the \$3.5 million election commitment but got nothing more than the state government's loose change (\$50k) and a scaled down commitment to \$1.7m, while it seems plans to repair termite damage to the Moranbah hospital have been pushed off a cliff."

"With 117 extra teachers pitched in the budget for the Mackay-Whitsunday area I would expect that Dysart would be among the top priority for at least four of those extra teachers with class amalgamations now occurring between grade 9 to grade 12 students."

Mr Last said with the Treasurer's assertion that more people were moving to regional Queensland, along with a 61 per cent investment commitment in regional Queensland, it beggared belief why more funding was not given to a highway that was not only vital for transporting equipment and more importantly workers to some of Queensland's biggest mines.

"I've had constituents tell me that they play Russian Roulette every time they travel the Peak Downs Highway, we've already seen multiple accidents this year and despite all of this the state government has once again turned a blind eye to the Isaac region."

“We talk about attracting families to the bush, but you will never get them there unless you have the services they deserve.”

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