



Dale Last MP
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Shadow Minister for Police and Corrective Services, Shadow Minister for Fire and Emergency Services
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Media Release – Last asks if Ryan is listening to hearings

Shadow Minister for Police and Corrective Services, Dale Last, wants a guarantee that evidence given during public hearings into the Youth Justice Bill currently before Parliament will be taken on board by the Minister for Police and reflected in additional amendments when the Bill is debated in the coming weeks.

Mr Last said that if the Minister was serious about listening to Queenslanders when it comes to Youth Justice, he would make changes to the proposed amendments, including the reinstatement of Breach of Bail as an offence.

“Unfortunately this Labor Government has a track record of completely disregarding evidence given at public hearings into legislation before Parliament,” Mr Last said. “I know a lot of people and organisations who gave evidence at the public hearings would be bitterly disappointed if additional amendments were not made when this Bill is brought back before Parliament for debate.”

“Anyone who says that youth crime isn’t out of control is not being honest with the public. The government said it would consult and listen and it’s very obvious from the testimony given that the public and interested parties want the legislation amended.”

“Obviously the LNP has been leading the call for the reintroduction of Breach of Bail for young offenders and I am pleased to see that, by and large, those calls are echoed by people who appeared at the hearings.”

Mr Last said that, as a former Police Officer, he recognised the value of input from the community and stakeholders and called on the government to do the same.

“Issues like early intervention, accommodation for young offenders and the effect of drugs were raised on a number of occasions during the hearings,” Mr Last said. “Time and time again we have heard the government say that a co-operative approach was needed and that all options were on the table but that has obviously not happened.”



“Make no mistake, the LNP will work with the government to address this issue but the government has to listen to the community to ensure that the best solution is found. We owe it to the community and to the victims to get it right.”

“Concerned citizens, victims and even former offenders have bared their souls to help find solutions. If the government ignores that and arrogantly pushes through the legislation without change, it will be confirming that the needs of the community have been ignored.”

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