



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 - Quarantine inequality cruel Queensland industry

Shadow Minister for Rural and Regional Affairs, Dale Last, has called on the Labor government to “do the right thing by all of Queensland” and provide a 50% subsidy for workers coming to Queensland under the Pacific Labour Scheme or Seasonal Worker Program.

The subsidy, which is already provided by both New South Wales and Victoria, would help address the looming fruit and vegetable supply crisis and prove the government supports horticulture according to Mr Last.

“My office is being inundated with growers who are desperate for farm labour,” Mr Last said. “They are approaching the end of their tether and I’ve had one industry member referring to the Labor government’s actions as crawling along at a snail’s pace.”

“I applaud the Australian Bananas Grower’s Council in lobbying for Queensland farmers to get the same level of support as their interstate colleagues. It’s bad news for families throughout the state that this issue has been ignored.”

Mr Last said the inequality in treatment of farmers when compared to other states was not just about financial support.

“In Victoria, arrangements have been fully approved in two weeks,” he said. “In Queensland we have applications that seem to go round and round in circles for two months.”

“The federal government has done their job and other states are making inroads into addressing the problem. In Queensland it seems the Premier doesn’t realise that food doesn’t just magically appear.”

“We are talking about intergenerational businesses that support large parts of rural communities being basically ignored and we are talking about Queensland families facing 10-fold increases in fruit and vegetable prices.”

“With every delay we get closer and closer to fruit and vegetables either not being available or being out of reach for families. If that happens, the blame will lay solely at the feet of the Queensland Labor government.”



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