



Dale Last MP
Member for Burdekin

Burdekin Electorate Office

Shop 30 Centrepont Arcade

AYR QLD 4807

Tel: 07 4767 0500

Freecall: 1800 817 594

Email: burdekin@parliament.qld.gov.au

Shadow Minister for Police and Corrective Services, Shadow Minister for Fire and Emergency Services
Shadow Minister for Rural and Regional Affairs

25 February, 2022

Media Release – NQ & FNQ deserve TF UK too

While welcoming the announcement that the state Labor government will take action on criminal street gangs, Shadow Minister for Police & Corrective Services, Dale Last MP, believes the North and Far North have been ‘ignored again’ when it comes to youth crime.

“I acknowledge fully that a response to gangs involved with attempted and actual murders is warranted,” Mr Last said. “The fact is that we have had deaths in both Townsville and Cairns and we effectively have communities held to ransom by criminal street gangs.”

“It’s insulting to people in the North and Far North that, the next time the Police Minister visits Townsville or Cairns, will repeat his claim that Police decide where resources are needed and that it’s not his decision. Typical of Labor, we will get a different message in the North and Far North to the message in Brisbane.”

“Just like most topics, when it comes to youth crime, we are treated like the poorer cousins.”

Mr Last said that recent announcements had done nothing to quell the discontent throughout regional Queensland when it came to crime.

“The announcement of the Brisbane task force talks about groups repeatedly coming to Police attention over the last 6 to 12 months,” Mr Last said. “Townsville has been under siege by youth crime for years now and the experience in Cairns is not that different.”

“A year of repeated Police attention in Brisbane gets you a taskforce. Year after year of recidivist young criminals stealing cars and breaking into houses in Townsville or Cairns gets you an occasional visit from a Minister after a tragic disaster.”

“There is definitely one thing that the people of North and Far North Queensland can pass on to the people of Brisbane. Any talk of cooperation between government departments is talk and nothing more.”

“More than three years ago the Police Minister stood up in front of residents, community leaders and even the then-Police Commissioner and vowed to enforce cooperation and hold departments that



didn't cooperate to account. The hot air coming from the Minister that night, and since, is enough to a launch a fleet of Police Hot Air Balloons to compliment the recently announced drones."

ENDS – Media Contact: David Cooper (07) 4767 0500 or 0427 834 844