



Parliamentary Update

Parliament is due to sit again commencing 9 May and, having had no sittings in April, there is certainly plenty to prosecute.

There are only two sittings left until the State Government hands down its budget for 2022/2023 and I for one will be continuing my fight for funding in Health, Education and Roads.

Throughout the pandemic major industries in this electorate like agriculture and mining, kept our state and national economy going through what could be described as one of the most challenging times in history.

Despite this, we still have roads that need significant improvement, schools without adequate staffing or permanent water solutions and health services that are not meeting the needs of their communities.

Clermont health can not be a political football

When it comes to community advocacy, there are few places that rival the effort that Clermont has put in fighting for better access to health care. As the State Member for Burdekin I have backed the community as we lobbied for and won, Federal government support, secured investments from the resources sector and welcomed the National Rural Health Commissioner for a tour, all in an effort to bring additional doctors

to

Clermont.

So I think I speak for many when I say the latest news that one of two potential doctors has walked away from negotiations with Mackay Hospital and Health because they have soured, is nothing short of a kick in the guts.

It's especially gut wrenching for advocates like Clermont 4 Doctors who have worked tirelessly to not only source potential doctors but provide incentives to convince doctors to move to Clermont for work.

I have previously called on the Director General of Queensland Health to come to Clermont and speak directly with the community, I've raised this issue on the floor of parliament on numerous occasions and after the latest debacle, I've called for heads to roll within Mackay Hospital and Health Services.

To see a health service executive now put out statements which essentially turn this major issue into a political football is an absolute disgrace and this community has every right to be frustrated and angry.

This is not an issue that I will be letting go and you can rest assured that I will continue to fight for a better outcome for this community when it comes to health care.



Roads a roller coaster of news

Roads in North Queensland are vital, they connect industries like our agriculture and resources sectors and our schools, however some have been left to ruins and could be described as nothing short of dangerous.

Roads like the Clermont-Alpha Road, May Downs Road and the Kilcummin – Diamond Downs Roads are the arteries of these areas, so I welcomed the federal LNP commitment to fund upgrade these roads.

I have been fighting for these upgrades for years now and, while Labor have ignored my calls and the calls of locals, the federal LNP has listened and I am sure that residents in that area are grateful for the federal LNP's support.

While the sign of roadworks to come is a positive for parts of the electorate, in other areas they have been caused significant frustrations.

Unfortunately, road works on the Bruce Highway to the north and south of Bowen to widen areas of the highway have come to a grinding halt after a contractor went into receivership.

It beggars belief that almost two months on, the site that was supposed to be bustling with activity, is still as bare as the day contractors left, and we are still without answers as to when work is even supposed to resume.

Shadow Minister for Transport and Main Roads Steve Minnikin recently joined me to tour the area and has echoed calls for answers from the Minister as to when work is due to resume at the site.



New scans could help answer erosion concerns

Concerns around the sediment in the Burdekin River and the possibility of the river itself changing course may soon be addressed.

After consultation with the Water Minister, we have made some progress and a full LIDAR scan of the Burdekin River is now being considered. The scan would provide most, if not all, of the information needed to ensure that action is taken to protect farmland and our adjoining communities.

Additionally, the scan will provide information that can be used to ensure the long-term health of Cape Bowling Green and the RAMSAR listed Cromarty Wetlands.

While it's not an iron-clad guarantee, it is certainly promising.

Backing businesses who have a go

I love people who are prepared to have a go!

Priyank and Janki came up from Melbourne 3 months ago to purchase the Middlemount Newsagency and they couldn't be happier.

They are now looking for employees to help them out so, if you know anyone looking for a job, let them know.



Tafe colleges must support our local industries and their futures

Both the Burdekin and Bowen regions have strong agriculture industries, however the reality is the future of these industries relies on being able to train the next generation of farmers.

The recent sod turn at the Bowen Tafe for the \$3.4million Agriculture Center of Excellence in Bowen is, of course, welcome news not just for the community but for the wider North Queensland agricultural industry.

It appears, that after closing two of the last agricultural training colleges in Queensland, Labor has finally realised that in order to continue to feed our state and our nation, we need a pathway for future generations to enter the industry at the door step of agricultural

communities.

If we are to secure the future of agriculture, we need to be able to provide as many opportunities for thousands of aspiring farmers to be able to learn and train in the industry.



It was great to catch up with school captains from across the electorate recently. If these school leaders are anything to go by our future is truly in great hands.

Here to help

If you or someone you know has an issue that you need help with, please remember my job is to represent you. I may not always be able to fix the problem... but rest assured I will always do my best.

If you need assistance, please email burdekin@parliament.qld.gov.au or call 1800 817 594.

How Dale Last can help you!



**As your State MP
I am responsible for:**

Agriculture	Sport and Recreation
Health and Public Hospitals	Racing
Main Roads	Energy and Water Supply
Education and IAHE	Transport
National Parks	Public Housing
Disability Services	Community Services
Police and Emergency Services	Tourism
Attorney-General	Planning and Infrastructure
	State Government Land



**Your Federal Member
is responsible for:**

Aged Care	Telecommunications and NBN
Centrelink	Trade
Child Support	Indigenous Affairs
Aviation	The ABC and SBS
Defence	Environment
Foreign Affairs	Bureau of Meteorology
Immigration and Visas	CSIRO
Medicare	



**Your Local Council
is responsible for:**

Local Roads	Rubbish Collection
Footpaths	Council by-laws
Animal Control	Water, Drainage and Wastewater
Parks and Recreation	Feral Pest Control
Rates	Local Planning and Building Approvals

Until next month, stay safe and well.

Dale.