



Parliamentary Update

As Shadow Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Shadow Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, it's incredibly important to me, that our men and women in blue, our orange army and our firies, have the resources they need to do their job and have the equipment to ensure their safety.

Last week in Estimates I took the opportunity to question the Minister and relevant Commissioners on how the government plans to achieve this. The reality is, there are still two reviews left on the Minister's desk that are yet to be released and, our emergency service volunteers deserve to see those reports in full and to know that specific actions are being taken by this government to address the concerns of volunteers.

With Budget sittings and estimates hearings now over, normal Parliament is set to resume later in August, with plenty to prosecute including, health, crime, education, housing and roads.

Innovative panels provide water for students

It's simply beyond belief that in this day and age there is a school right in this very electorate that has been without a reliable water source for decades, however that is exactly the situation that was faced by the Valkyrie State School community until now.

Thanks to Rural Aid, Stanmore Resources and CQMRG the students at Valkyrie State

School are putting the days of waiting until the trucks arrive or having to supply bottled water just so they can have a drinking water, behind them.

The innovative, Source hydropanels, which harness solar energy to create drinking water, have already been a success in two other schools in the electorate so I have no doubt they will be a welcomed initiative at Valkyrie State School.



Search for Clermont doctor goes back to square one



Roads fight not over yet

The fight for better roads in the north continues right across the electorate with road works north and south of Bowen coming to a grinding halt six months ago and still no sign of when work will resume on the Mount Coolon Road which recently claimed two road trains carrying livestock.

I recently wrote to the Federal Minister for Transport about road works around Bowen, with the state government now saying the project needs renewed approval from the Federal Government before a new contractor can begin work. I will continue to vigorously prosecute this issue which is causing a lot of angst in the community and for travellers on the highway. In the north we have to fight tooth and nail for our share of infrastructure upgrades so to see projects like this hit a brick wall because of a failure to do simple due diligence is not good enough.

Further to the west on the Bowen Developmental Road we saw two road trains carrying cattle roll over in the space of a matter of weeks. It's a huge economic hit to those farmers and after having an ambulance overturn last year on the way to a road traffic accident it has left all of us asking, what is it going to take?

With the 2022/2023 Budget now handed down and Estimates process behind us, our roads that connect our homes, industries and town centers will be at the fore as we return to the floor of parliament at the end of August.



Jobs galore needs state support

It's a frustrating circumstance within our regional hospitals and major industries, where we have access to facilities and services in our small towns that aren't being used to their capacity because we are unable to attract trained staff to the bush.

What is even more frustrating is that right here in the Burdekin we have a TAFE facility that is being underutilised while those who could potentially fill skilled worker shortages have to drive down the road for training.

Currently the unemployment rate in the Burdekin is less than the State rate so it is not a case of not being able to find a job, it's a case of being able to provide the training and the skills development in the same town where people could be employed.

Resilience should be annual investment

After we were previously informed that the new round of the Household Resilience Funding was only open to people who had already submitted an application in a prior round, it was fantastic to hear this week that this round has officially opened to new applications.

The projects funded are everything from installing cyclone shutters to replacing or repairing roofs on houses and for some people the costs of these projects are out of reach or not even able to be considered without assistance but are needed to increase the resilience of a home.

With housing availability at record lows, it is important that every measure is taken to ensure our homes are as cyclone-proof as possible. It's why programs like this are so important and why I believe they should be able to be accessed on an annual basis.

We have already seen the impact of displacement due to flood damaged homes in the south-east, I could only imagine the impact a severe weather event would have on smaller regional towns in North Queensland if a cyclone decimated them.



I was honoured to attend the opening of the Burdekin Education Program, an initiative of Edmund Rice Education Australia. The aim of the program is to unlock the future potential, hopes, dreams and voices of our young people. I was fortunate enough to meet with the staff, representatives from

Edmund Rice Education Australia and, most importantly, the young people taking part in the program.

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 TAFE	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.