

Burdekin Electorate: News

[View this email in your browser](#)



Welcome to 2023

Welcome to 2023 and what has been a frenetic start to the year. We are only one month into the new year and I have well and truly hit the ground running.

Already in January we have taken the time to thank those every day community members who go above and beyond for those around them. We have also endured some significant wet weather and welcomed students back into schools across the electorate.

With Parliament not returning for another couple of weeks I've taken the opportunity to head to the western areas of the electorate. That's right Glenden, Moranbah, Clermont, Dysart and Middlemount, I am headed your way so please, if you would like to catch up with me contact my office to make arrangements.

Remember, to keep up to date with my activities please visit my Facebook page.

Parliament Update

While the festive season may have brought joy to most of us, I know that for many of us, including myself, hearts were broken at the news of another life lost in an incident involving young offenders.

Unfortunately it is not the first time we have seen lives lost due to incidents involving young offenders in Queensland with Townsville seeing first hand the sense of anger, sadness and frustration that has been felt in other parts of our state.

We know that our Police men and women are doing the best they can but they need the

our communities safe.

The first sitting of Parliament is looking to be significant with changes to the Youth Justice Act likely to be debated. The LNP want to see stronger laws in place to protect our communities and hold these young offenders to account. That starts with early intervention and allowing young offenders to be charged with breach of bail. The way I see it, if you have committed an offence and a magistrate has granted you bail with specific conditions you need to follow, that should be treated as a privilege to be respected. Too often we are seeing repeat offenders thumb their noses at the law while on bail and not only disobey these conditions but go on to reoffend.

Click here to have your say on the proposed amendments to the Youth Justice Act



Have your say!

Behind every crime there is a victim and victims deserve to be heard!

To have YOUR say on the government's proposed changes to the Youth Justice Act please visit:

www.qld.gov.au/strongerlaws

Wet weather

The wet season is well and truly underway and as I write this we are experiencing significant rainfall across the district with a cyclone now formed off the east coast.

While it's not uncommon and certainly part of our life up here in the north, it's important that we don't become complacent and consider not only our safety but the safety of those around us.

Please ensure you have the appropriate preparations in place for your home and your family and of course when it comes to driving through floodwaters remember the age old adage – if it's flooded forget it!



Small but mighty problem needs funding now

They may be small, but the damage that Yellow Crazy Ant colonies continue to wreak on communities, including Alligator Creek, is increasing.

This 'time sensitive', state government issue was promised funding and additional resources by both major parties during last years' federal election, however eight months down the track it has been revealed that the funding is currently tied up in bureaucratic red tape. We know that the eradication of these invasive pests is a time sensitive issue and the more time that passes the more difficult it will be to tackle already established colonies, which is why I want to see this issue at the top of the agenda for both Ministers and their departments.

Just because these pests aren't causing damage in the south-east doesn't mean that funding significant eradication programs shouldn't be among the priorities for the state and federal Labor governments. The longer we wait, the greater the amount of taxpayer money that is needed to stop this problem once and for all.



Flood resilience should be a must for NQ road

Recently we saw RACQ release it's 2022 Unroadworthy Roads Survey report and while it wouldn't come as a surprise to many of us, the Bruce Highway sat comfortably in first place in the Top 10.

While there were issues highlighted right along the Bruce Highway, concerns around the stretch of road from the intersection of Cape Cleveland Road to the intersection of Zinc Road and of course issues around Bowen were raised in the report.

Recently during significant wet weather in the Bowen area, we saw already stalled roadworks on the Bruce Highway damaged, almost a year to the date it came to a screeching halt.

Despite a \$22million price tag the road was only ever going to be widened which, as we have seen, is far short of what is needed and that is why I have called on the state government to make the most of a bad situation and commit to re evaluating the works to include flood resilience.

The stalled project has been jointly funded by both the state and federal governments so, an increase in the scope of the works will probably mean that the federal government will need to increase their funding. Given that we have Labor governments at both the state and federal level, there should be no political bickering.

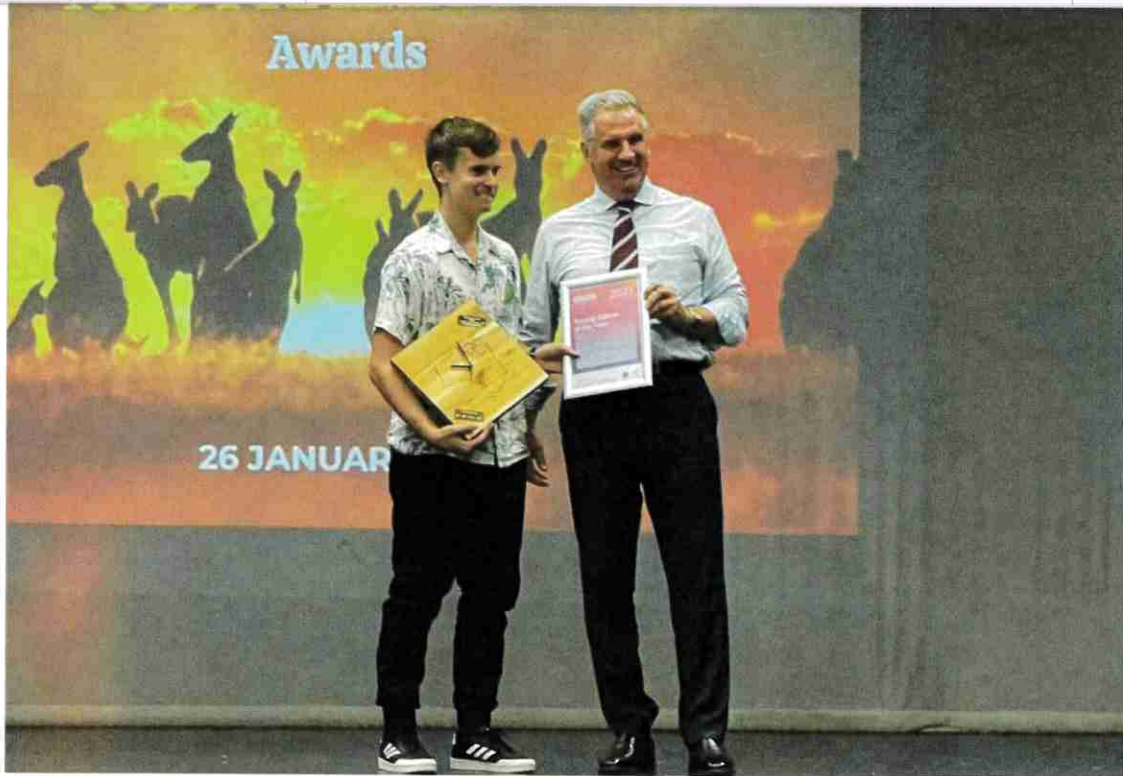
It is common sense to get in and solve this problem once and for all. I have written to Minister Bailey requesting an urgent re-evaluation of the works to include improved flood resilience and ensure that the people who rely on that road get the standard of road that they deserve.



Celebrating our community's greatest

It was great to be able to pause and recognise our community's greatest assets, its people, during recent Australia Day ceremonies. I was able to join Collinsville to mark their Australia Day commemorations this year with some deserving locals recognised.

We are so lucky to have people among us right across the electorate who go above and beyond for our community, sporting clubs, schools and groups. Congratulations to all of the award winners right across the electorate, the Burdekin is certainly lucky to have you.



Ensuring every child can make the most of school

It's great to see schools back in action and ready to go for another busy year of learning.

Recently I was able to catch up with the team from Fuel for Schools and present a donation of 75 pencil case packs for students in schools across the Burdekin Electorate.

The team at Fuel for Schools do a fantastic job at ensuring our kids are able to make the most out of their school day.



Ensuring every child can make the most of school

I was honoured to present Sandra Stidston with acknowledgement for her 40 years of service to the community as a JP. JP's play a vital role in not only assisting the community, but also in the legal system, and it's unpaid work.

Thank you to Sandra and to all of our JP's!




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.***



 Share  Forward

Copyright © 2023 Dale Last MP - Member for Burdekin, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

