



Dale **LAST** MP
Member for **Burdekin**

The Last Word

Regular eNewsletter

Working for you

Parliament Update

As we have seen across the state lately, youth crime and in particular the violent nature to which it has evolved has been among the top news headlines.

So it comes as no surprise that the government took swift action to introduce legislation around the sale of knives and other weapons to minors in the first sitting of parliament for 2024.

While the new laws may go some way in reducing the incidents of these weapons being carried by a minor, it won't stop those young offenders from taking a weapon from home, making it themselves or arming themselves in the course of committing other offences.

What's just as concerning is the onus the bill will put on small businesses to ensure that these restricted items are secured and not sold to minors.

At the same time we still have a youth justice act that outlines detention as a last resort and as a result, a growing number of serial recidivist offenders that are committing violent crimes across this state.

There is still plenty to do in the space of youth justice and at a time when Queenslanders need the state Labor government to do more to keep them safe we are seeing them once again, stop short of the mark.

Community frustration turns to petition



Frustrations around surging crime rates in our community can not be ignored any longer and I don't plan to let them be.

Recently 50 business owners and community members stood together with one message, 'we've had enough' and I can assure you that is not the end of the campaign.

We've raised our voices before to call for more police in our local stations and those calls cannot fall on deaf ears any longer with a petition launching this week to call for more boots on the ground and more support for security measures.

It shouldn't be left up to residents and business owners to be conducting patrols at all hours of the evening just to ensure cars are still in the driveway and businesses haven't been smashed, but that is exactly what is happening right now.

Just this week the federal government announced that it would provide a North Queensland community with funding to conduct night patrols in a bid to deter youth offending and there is no reason why the same funding can't be provided to the Burdekin.

The petition will call for more plain clothes officers and government funded security patrols and is now available to sign. You can do so by clicking the link below or visiting my office at Shop E, 54-60 Queen St, Ayr.

[Sign the petition here](#)

Roads left to ruin with funding delays



They're not much, in fact some have been best described as goat tracks, but to us they are vital, they connect communities, industries and essential services.

However time and time again, at a state level, and now a federal level we see the highlighted importance of these roads fall on deaf ears. A \$400million commitment by the previous federal government to seal several beef corridors including the Clermont-Alpha Rd, May Downs Rd and Kilcummin- Diamond Downs Rd, has once again been put on the backburner with funding now not being committed to the project until 2027/2028 and the full project not being completed until 2031/2032.

The sheer fact that communities will possibly have to wait close to five years to see work even begin on these roads is a disgrace and in the meantime we are left with substandard and down right dangerous roads that don't service communities or the industries that rely on it.

We know the townships and industries that rely on these roads are the ones that tip more than their fair share into government coffers so it's only fair that at least some of that share is used to ensure that those people who live and work in these areas can get to their destination and home again safely.

Residents deserve reliability

It's not the first time that the need for improved reliability of our local energy network has been brought to the fore but recovery and repairs after Cyclone Kirrily certainly highlighted how badly the work is needed.

Last year as a community we petitioned for improvements to the energy network to be undertaken and while it's taken some time, work is now due to commence in April.

The works will include the replacement of infrastructure including upgrading feeder cables to improve reliability, increase capacity and support future growth.

As I said, the issue of reliability in our energy supply is certainly not a new one and one that we have had to endure for long enough so I will be doing everything I can to hold the government to account and ensure they deliver on their promise without any further delay.

Watering the future of the Burdekin



It was great to have the Shadow Minister for Water and Construction of Dams and Shadow Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing Deb Frecklington visit the electorate recently.

As we know our farmers rely heavily on irrigation in the Burdekin and ensuring they are getting a fair go when it comes to water pricing has wide reaching impacts.

Deb was able to hear first hand from stakeholders both in the water industry as well as how the Burdekin is punching above its weight in the world of manufacturing.

Funding opportunities open now

There's currently a number of grant opportunities available right now for community groups and sporting clubs to assist with projects and programs your not for profit organisation may be working towards.

If you or your not-for-profit organisation is looking for a letter of support for a grant application please contact my office to find out how I can help.

Community Road Safety Education Grant

The Community Road Safety Education Grants provide an opportunity for not-for-profit organisations including schools, parents and citizens and parents and friends groups, local governments and community groups who have an idea about how to educate their local community in solving a road safety issue.

One-off funding up to \$40,000 is available to support Queensland communities with the development and delivery of effective road safety education initiatives that support people to be safer road users.

Applications are open all year round, with the next round closing on Friday, 29 March 2024.

For more information, including how to apply, visit www.tmr.qld.gov.au/roadsafetygrants.

Connected Communities Grants

Applications for 2024 Telstra Connected Communities Grant Program is opening shortly.

In partnership with the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal, grants of up to \$10,000 are available to not-for-profits to help them build resilient, sustainable, and liveable communities.

Funds will be available for new or existing not-for-profit programs to help them scale their impact to help more Australians in rural and regional areas become better connected.

Applications for the 2024 Telstra Connected Communities grant round will open at 9am on Tuesday 27th of February 2024 and will close at 5pm on Wednesday 27th of March 2024.

For more details on the Connected Communities Grant program visit telstra.com.au

Gambling Community Benefit Fund

The first round of the Gambling Community Benefit Fund grants for 2024 is currently open and closes February 29 for projects and improvements in conjunction with not-for-profit community groups. In the most recent round up to \$400,000 was awarded across the Burdekin electorate and with the super round on the horizon there is certainly plenty of opportunities for sporting teams, community groups and local contractors to benefit.

For more information visit <https://www.justice.qld.gov.au/initiatives/community-grants>

Champions of our community



Clermont Men's Shed

Men's Sheds play an important role in each and every community



Bowen Pink Stumps Day

While I wasn't able to be there this year, once again the efforts of Seth McIntosh and the team



Dave Luscombe

they are a part of and Clermont Men's Shed is no different.

A number of years ago the Clermont Men's Shed helped out with the creation of Buddy Benches, providing a safe space for students in schools across the electorate, and since then they continue to provide support to members and benefits for the wider community with their craft.

that put together the Bowen Pink Stumps Day cannot go unnoticed. A fantastic event to raise awareness and funds for a very worthwhile cause.

When Billy found out his teacher was going to be the lead in a local production he was determined to be there to support her and Dave Luscombe was on hand to ensure Billy could enjoy the show just like his other peers. Despite Billy's hearing impairment, Dave was able to connect Billy's cochlear implant so Billy could enjoy all aspects of the show. A very special experience for Billy and a credit to Dave.

Until next time, stay safe and well.

Dale

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