



Parliament Update

As we inch closer to the election in October the clock is well and truly ticking for multiple pieces of legislation to be debated and passed in Parliament. Unfortunately what we are now seeing is multiple Bills being debated together (cognated) which makes a mockery of the Parliamentary process and does little to engender confidence in the community that this legislation has been subjected to the appropriate Parliamentary scrutiny and consultation.

Our job as Members of Parliament is to act on your behalf and be a voice for the electorate. Whilst changes to legislation which are based on common sense will be supported, using this as a platform to push political agendas cannot be left to fly under the radar and should be called out for what it is.

Burdekin deserves its share of Budget spend



The next sitting of parliament will see the 2024-2025 State Budget handed down and with the Burdekin Electorate pumping billions of dollars into the state government coffers each year through our major industries we deserve to see our fair share invested back into our regions.

In Ayr we are still seeing patients having to be transported to Townsville just for a CT scan, while right across the electorate we have roads that are best described as goat tracks and chronic housing shortages with some areas experiencing little to no crisis accommodation at all.

Lets not forget cost of living increases like electricity which, despite paying up to 30 per cent more for power, we are yet to see real investment from this state government to ensure the lights actually stay on.

Community cannot be collateral damage in pay dispute

Forecasts of a bumper crop in the sugar industry is something the Burdekin community should be looking forward to but with the ongoing pay dispute between Wilmar and workers we need assurances that the region won't be held to ransom.

Time is of the essence and with the 2024 crushing season about to start I certainly hope that negotiations between the relevant parties bear fruit and a mutually acceptable outcome is reached sooner rather than later.

By ensuring there are no further delays, Wilmar has the opportunity to ensure that they, as well as the rest of the community, benefit as much as possible from the predicted bumper crop. If they refuse to negotiate fairly they may have a short term win but at what long term cost?

Wages and conditions are about negotiating for the best outcome for all parties, Wilmar must ensure a fair outcome for themselves but the community also expects a fair outcome for the workers and the wider community.

The flow on effects of delays or standovercane in the paddocks at the end of the crushing ripples through the entire community.

Urgency needed for Glenden



Time is ticking away to secure the future of Glenden and right now the focus needs to be on the people who call Glenden home. That is why I have called on the Resources Minister to convene an urgent meeting of major stakeholders including the the Mayor, senior representatives from both Glencore and QCoal and myself.

There has never been consensus on the way forward despite a raft of groups focused on Glenden's future. I've been prepared to work in a bi-partisan manner since 2017 and the evidence of that is meetings with Labor Ministers, the Co-ordinator General and local government representatives.

Instead of trying to blame someone or make it someone's problem to fix, let's do the right thing and find a solution that will actually work because the demise of Glenden gets closer with every day we continue on the current path.

Let's just sit down like community leaders and work on behalf of the people instead of hurling insults and accusations.

Electorate Office a legacy for Burdekin



This month we welcomed the Clerk of the Parliament Mr Neil Laurie, to officially open the new Burdekin Electorate Office.

The first Burdekin Electorate Office was in Young Street and obviously since the 1990s has held a firm place at Centrepoint Arcade. Since that time the requirements of that office have changed dramatically and with that the need for more space and functionality has seen the transition to the new office space on Queen Street.

The Burdekin Electorate Office plays an important role within this community, not only as a place where you can meet with me to discuss issues but a safe space where you can attend for assistance with a wide range of issues.

The Burdekin Electorate is incredibly diverse from our horticulture and agriculture industries in the Bowen and Burdekin Shire areas, and of course our mining and resources sectors in the Moranbah and wider Isaac region.

Having images of Hoods Lagoon in Clermont, Bowen's Big Mango, Alligator Creek, the Burdekin Bridge and Collinsville's Pit Pony is about paying homage to this entire electorate, its vast landscapes and of course its iconic scenes.

Please remember that if you or anyone you know needs assistance, don't hesitate to visit the Burdekin electorate Office and find out how my staff and I can assist you.

Bush health services deserve support



Regardless of where you live, you should be able to access healthcare services across Queensland.

Over the years we have had to fight tooth and nail to secure those health services that we do have and we acknowledge the invaluable role they play in our communities. The recent announcement of the loss of GP practices in Clermont and Bowen will have an enormous impact on those towns and surrounding areas.

It is true that it is becoming harder to attract doctors to regional areas but the fact is that this is an essential service so government cannot just put it in the “too hard” basket.

I've called for both levels of government to provide support needed for our doctors who choose to work in our rural locations and I'm committed to working to provide assistance where I can.

Smile! The dentist is coming to visit

For many parts of the Burdekin Electorate accessing allied health services often means travelling to another town so having the RFDS Dental Service scheduled to return to the electorate is fantastic news.

The Dental Service will be available on the following dates;

Glenden 04 June – 13 June 2024
Collinsville 25 June – 04 July 2024

Anyone looking to access the **free** dental care service can register for an appointment by calling 1800 002 507. A special thanks goes to QCoal Foundation for their support of this service.

Funding available for housing resilience

Applications for Phase 4 of the Household Resilience Grants are now available for eligible homeowners.

Up to \$15,000 can be accessed to put towards building upgrades and assist in improving the resilience of homes against cyclones. Applications are open until funding is exhausted, to check eligibility requirements or to apply visit <https://hpw.smartygrants.com.au/Household-Resilience-Program-Phase4>

Clermont Show

Race day a highlight for Burdekin

The annual Burdekin Growers Race Day held on the 18th of May was a huge event with great racing and spectacular Fashions on the field. Well done to the hard working committee and the broader Burdekin community for putting on this great event.



A very special visitor



Recently I had a very special visitor in the office. At 9 years of age, Billy has achieved so much despite being born with a hearing impairment. Billy wanted to share his story and to encourage support for [Hear and Say](#). If you'd like to support their amazing work, and help kids like Billy, please visit: www.hearandsaygivingday.org.au

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.

If you are seeking further grant opportunities that may not be listed below you can always visit <https://www.grants.gov.au/Go/List> or <https://www.grants.services.qld.gov.au/>

Qantas Regional Grants

The Qantas Regional Grants program is back with \$2 million in funding to support communities and projects aimed at benefiting regional areas. The grants can be cash grants, marketing support or flights in kind. For further information, please visit <https://www.qantas.com/au/en/about-us/our-company/in-the-community/qantas-regional-grants.html>

QCoal Community Spirit Grants

QCoal's Community Spirit Grants are available for projects up to \$2000 that reflect the spirit and aspirations of the community. for more information visit <https://qcoalfoundation.org/our-initiatives/community-grant-program/>

Bravus Community Partnership Program

Each year, the Community Partnership Program offers four rounds of funding for community groups and not-for-profit initiatives, projects, programs and events. A maximum of \$10,000 per applicant is granted in each round for eligible not-for-profits in select council areas. Round 2 is now open until June 15. For more information visit <https://www.bravusmining.com.au/community-partnership-application-form/>

Champions of our community

Clermont Wombat Festival organisers

It was great to be able to attend and support the Clermont Wombat Festival this year. What a mammoth effort from organisers of the event, particularly Tania Gillies. Unique community events like these are incredibly important to our local economies and residents with visitors travelling from a number of other regions to enjoy the festival



Callan Taiters

I had the pleasure of recently meeting with Callan Taiters, a student from Ayr State High School, who has represented our region proudly in boxing and was also selected as one of 93 students nation-wide to take part in the 29th National School Constitutional Convention.

What an achievement on its own but what makes it an even greater achievement is the programme is aimed at students in Years 11 and 12 and Callan was in Year 9. Callan is a young man with a great future ahead of him and he's a young man we can all be extremely proud of.

Burdekin school captains

I say it each year but the Burdekin's future really is looking bright with school leaders like ours. Recently I caught up with the school captains of all four of the Burdekin high schools where we were able to share plenty of ideas about the future of the Burdekin as well as how we can improve school life.





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 |

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