



July 11, 2018

MEDIA RELEASE

Budget blunder should be bonus for Burdekin

Member for Burdekin, Dale Last, wants money promised to a stalled Bio-Energy project diverted to his electorate.

Proponents of the North Queensland Bio-Energy (NQBE) mill in Ingham yesterday called a halt in proceedings despite the State Government committing to the project in the recent budget.

"I am disappointed that the project in Ingham is not going ahead but it doesn't really come as a surprise," Mr Last said.

"In May NQBE said the project wouldn't be going ahead but the Treasurer still committed over a million dollars to it in the State budget."

"If we don't act now that money will vanish back to the South East and North Queensland will miss out."

"There are projects throughout Burdekin that people have approached me for and the money would make a big difference in a large part of the electorate."

Mr Last said the project in Ingham offered an opportunity for cane farmers to prove the worth of value-adding for their crop but, now the project would not proceed, some good needed to come from the budget commitment.

"Projects like a sports precinct at Bowen and a cover for the basketball court at Merinda State School are not expensive and have a massive impact on the people that use them," he said.

"Financial support for VMR in Bowen and the Burdekin and money for SES crews in Moranbah and Abbot Point, for example, could actually save lives."

"We can achieve all that and still fund a feasibility study into a Food Processing Plant in Bowen without spending all the funds that the government had committed to NQBE."

"I guess you could say that out of bad news could come massive job prospects in Bowen, better facilities for kids and the opportunity to save lives," Mr Last said. "And there would still be money left over to put toward the upgrade of the Burdekin Basketball stadium."

"I would love to see the Treasurer support these small but meaningful projects instead of seeing the funds diverted back to Brisbane."

ENDS

Media Contact: David Cooper 0427 834 844