

## Office of Dale Last MP | Member for Burdekin

Shadow Minister for Police & Corrective Services, Shadow Minister for Fire & Emergency Services, Shadow Minister for Rural & Regional Affairs



November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### MEDIA RELEASE

## Great barrier breach wastes \$3.4M

\$3.4 million of taxpayer money was wasted on “*anti-climb mesh*” at the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre (CYDC) according to Shadow Minister for Police and Corrective Services, Dale Last.

In 2015, a Department of Justice and Attorney-General spokeswoman told media that the project would “prevent young people from climbing onto building roofs” but Mr Last said the barriers obviously don’t work and questioned whether taxpayers were ripped off.

“The recent events at CYDC proves that the Queensland taxpayer has been ripped off,” Mr Last said. “This work is a dismal failure and it’s done nothing for the community or for the staff of CYDC.”

“The government should be asking whoever supplied the mesh for a full refund and put that money towards staff and equipment to actually ensure the staff are safe and that these events are stopped once and for all.”

“How can anyone have confidence that these detainees are actually being detained when, despite all that money being spent, they can still make their way onto the roof.”

Mr Last said the ongoing incidents were just one reason why some residents refer to CYDC as a “holiday camp” and that he could understand that community’s frustration.

“The detainees at CYDC aren’t kids who made a mistake, they are recidivist offenders,” Mr Last said. “Despite all the government’s claims about enforcing rules and there being consequences for bad behaviour, it just continues to happen.”

“Taxpayers are watching staff getting assaulted and, to add even more insult to injury, their money is being wasted on *anti-climb mesh* that is an obvious failure. When these types of things happen at a prison, action is rapidly taken but, at CYDC, it appears the government is more concerned about creating a nice environment than making the place safe for the staff and ensuring the safety of the community.”

“The fact that the recent incident ended due to batteries in I-Pads going flat proves that the approach of this government means these young crims have no respect for authority and no fear of the supposed consequences.”

“Yes we need to try rehabilitation but we also need to remember that there must be deterrence and, right now, it’s clear there definitely isn’t much deterring these young people from re-offending when released.”

ENDS - Media Contact: David Cooper (07) 4767 0500 or 0427 834 844