



Speech By  
**Dale Last**


**MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Burdekin Water Festival; Don River Dash

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (7.01 pm): As the signs and banners throughout the Burdekin district say at the moment, 'It's back!' This weekend will see the culmination of the Burdekin Water Festival with the hosting of the grand parade and mardi gras at the Ayr Showgrounds. Like festivals throughout the state, the water festival is a celebration—in this case, a celebration of the abundance of water in the Burdekin district. Since its inception, the Burdekin Water Festival has also provided an opportunity for community organisations and their representatives to raise much needed funds and their profile—and this year is no different.

I would like to put on the record my thanks, and the thanks of the community, to all of the participants, their families and their supporters. In the senior program we have Kelsey Rye, Taiya Kilcullen, Emma Smith, Jessica Perks and Gracie Hosie. This year's junior ambassadors are Reese Bradford, Claire Horan, Addison Bonato, Emma Wilkie, Summer Dixon, Chloe Becke, Briella Wassmuth and, representing the males, Joe Pappalardo. A huge thanks must also go to the 25 members of the organising committee under the leadership of Shane Moon and, of course, to the festival sponsors.

Just as the community will turn out in force for the water festival, they will also turn out in force for the Don River Dash 300 next weekend. The Don River Dash was born when Burdekin locals Michael Marson and Talbot Cox were competing in the world famous Baja 1000 in Mexico in 2017. A highlight of the race in Mexico was the section of the race conducted in a riverbed. When Talbot was flying over the Don River at Bowen a few years later, the idea of the Don River Dash was born.

Together with David and Courtney Muir, Michael and Talbot delivered the inaugural Don River Dash. Today we have an event that attracts over 400 competitors along with their crews and thousands of spectators, locals and visitors alike. When you think that they are reaching speeds of almost 200 kilometres per hour in the bed of the Don River, you appreciate just how fast they are travelling and the skill of these particular competitors.

Throughout the Burdekin electorate we have groups of volunteers who go above and beyond to make our communities better places to live. As the member for Burdekin, I am extremely proud of and grateful to each and every one of them. To Shane and the team behind the Burdekin Water Festival and to 'Marso' and the team behind the Don River Dash, I say thank you. We certainly look forward to those two events—the Burdekin Water Festival and the Don River Dash—taking place this year. I extend a big welcome and an invitation to all members to come along and experience these great events.