




Speech By
Dale Last

MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Upper Mount Gravatt Police Station

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (2.19 pm): All week in parliament this government has talked about its plans—plans for energy, plans for hospitals, plans for training; you name it—but when it comes to plans for police stations those plans fall down a dark, stinking hole. There is no better example than the Upper Mt Gravatt Police Station, a police station that is home to in excess of 100 personnel including general duties, plainclothes, road policing command and district office support staff, all working out of that particular station—a station that has been neglected by this government and is now on the borderline of being condemned. Can members believe that a police station in this state is on the borderline of being condemned?

This week I have received information that two independent engineers who have inspected that particular station have found concrete cancer and the station sinking into the ground. A recommendation has been made to condemn it. It gets much worse than that, because there has also been a catastrophic failure of the sewerage system at that particular station. The sewerage system has failed and they have had to put portaloos at the back of the station.

Mr Stevens: That really stinks!

Mr LAST: I take that interjection. It does stink to think that in this day and age in Queensland we have a police station that is on the borderline of being condemned. Police officers and staff at that station cannot even go to the toilet. They go to work and cannot even go to the toilet. This is Upper Mount Gravatt we are talking about here, not some Third World country.

The police minister stood in this place today and waxed lyrical about the resources and the equipment that he is rolling out for the Police Service. I have no issue with that. While it is well and good to focus on the front-of-house, you also need to have a look at the back-of-house—or the outhouse—because that is where the problem is in this instance. How about giving our hardworking police officers and their support staff a decent working environment—something that is professional, that is modern and that meets their needs. Instead of worrying about how things look, let us get things sorted and fixed up so they have something that meets their needs.

Upper Mount Gravatt station is over 30 years old. It has been neglected. It is in need of replacement. Our hardworking police officers deserve better. They are out there rain, hail or sunshine, as we in this place all know, 365 days of the year, keeping our communities safe. They deserve better than having to go to a police station that does not even have a functioning toilet. I am calling on the minister to fix this mess immediately.