



Speech By  
**Dale Last**


**MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### **Moranbah Discount Tyres & Mechanical; New Vehicle Efficiency Standard**

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (7.00 pm): As someone who has operated their own small business, I know that there is nothing easy about being part of a sector that, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, employs more than five million Australians. A host of challenges faces the small business owner, from the wider economy to local conditions and, of course, government policy. Such are those pressures that in the 2022-23 financial year over 385,000 small businesses closed their doors.

In the Burdekin electorate, one business that conquers any challenge they face is Moranbah Discount Tyres & Mechanical. Since 2005, this family owned business has provided a one-stop shop for clients across the Bowen Basin. It is very obvious that, in addition to knowing cars inside and out, the team from Moranbah Discount Tyres & Mechanical also know a thing or two about customer service, having recently been announced as a finalist in the Business of the Decade category in the Australian Small Business Champion Awards. When the award winners are presented in April, the entire Burdekin electorate will be barracking for Moranbah Discount Tyres & Mechanical.

At the same time, the federal Labor government has businesses like Moranbah Discount Tyres & Mechanical clearly in their sights. Why? Because, like businesses across Queensland, they sell the vehicles that their customers need. Federal Labor's national vehicle emissions scheme poses a direct threat not just to businesses but also to the people of rural and regional Queensland. Many times I have stood in this place and spoken about the appalling roads that have damaged school buses and even ambulances—roads that are nothing more than goat tracks. In addition to the appalling roads, drivers also have to contend with wildlife. For many families an SUV or four-wheel drive provides a level of safety that many living in larger centres take for granted. Thanks to federal Labor, we now know that the cost of safety for families in regional Queensland is up to \$25,000, and if you need a ute to operate your small business or pick up supplies for the farm get ready to pay up to \$18,000 for that privilege. Perhaps the most insulting part of this initiative is the fact that federal Labor refuse to release the modelling at a time when families are battling a cost-of-living crisis.

There is only one thing more certain than the Burdekin electorate's pride in Moranbah Discount Tyres & Mechanical and that is the fact that, when it comes to regional Queensland, Labor either does not know the truth or they simply do not care. For rural communities, four-wheel drives such as SUVs and utes are a way of life. They are a necessity in those areas. In many cases, they are tools of trade. To impose these massive price increases on that class of vehicle will have a huge impact on rural and regional communities right across Queensland.