



Speech By  
**Dale Last**


**MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN**

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Record of Proceedings, 21 March 2024

## **PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENTS**

### **Burdekin Electorate, Crime**

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (2.13 pm): Three thousand, five hundred and sixty-two: that is the number of signatures on a petition that I presented in parliament yesterday on behalf of the Burdekin community. Three thousand, five hundred and sixty-two residents are calling for additional police officers in that community and if they are not forthcoming then they expect this government to stump up the money to pay for private security to keep their community safe because they have had enough. They have had more than enough.

I will give this chamber another number: 2,031. It has been 2,031 days since the police minister came to the Burdekin and gave a commitment to that community for a multiagency approach to drive down crime. He made a whole heap of promises and he told the community that he would come back to ensure that those commitments were delivered. We are still waiting. It has been 2,031 days and both of those commitments are in tatters.

To see why those people are up in arms we need only look at the crime statistics. In just 12 months there has been a twelfold increase in unlawful entry charges in Home Hill. In just three months there has been four times the number of unlawful entry charges in Ayr. Is it any wonder that they are frustrated, they are scared and they are angry? Their homes and businesses are being targeted.

Of their own volition, the Home Hill community has had to step up and introduce night patrols. Residents and business owners are patrolling the streets throughout the night to keep their community safe. Is that what we have come to in this state when residents and business owners have to undertake patrols to keep their community safe? They do not have enough police officers in those communities to conduct the patrols and to keep up with the calls for service across the Burdekin. When there is only one crew or no crew to service that entire area, we can begin to understand why crime is getting out of control, why we have a youth crime problem in those particular communities and why those communities are now demanding that additional police officers be stationed there.

These petitions are sending a very clear message to this government. It is a message that comes from residents who are absolutely fed up. These demands are spearheaded by Steve Wagner, with the unending support of his wife, Angie, and at great personal cost. They are out there every single day doing their best to keep their community safe. All they are doing is putting their hands on their hearts and asking for a bit of assistance from the government. I do not think that is too much to ask for.