



Speech By  
**Dale Last**


**MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN**

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Record of Proceedings, 30 April 2024

## ADJOURNMENT

### Burdekin Electorate, Road Infrastructure

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (7.12 pm): I want to talk about a disaster that is unfolding at Moranbah with the closure of the Peak Downs Highway in the last week when an excavator from the Caval Ridge Mine became wedged under the overpass and, as a consequence, damaged that bridge to the extent that it now needs to be replaced. Of course, what that has meant for that particular area is that all the residents, the workers and the business operators who operate and live in that particular region are now forced to undertake a two-hour drive via Clermont, Dysart and the Beef Road to get around that particular road closure.

What has that meant? It has been an absolute catastrophe for some of those businesses and for some of the property owners who live along that road. Some of these business operators are going out of business. We had a quarry owner contact my office today. Due to this road closure he has already lost \$750,000 in income and he looks like he will have to retrench 30 staff. We have a trucking business in Clermont that has had to jack its prices up by \$25 a tonne because his drivers now have an extra two hours to drive on a return trip to Mackay. It does not stop there because that means the drivers are exceeding their logbook hours so they are now forced to stay overnight which adds further costs and delays to the transport of goods and services and produce into those communities.

This is having an absolutely devastating effect on that particular region. We need the detour beside the overpass to be constructed. We are told it will take somewhere between two weeks and one month to construct that detour. That is not good enough. We are not accepting that it is going to take that long to construct that detour. It needs to happen now. They should be operating there 24 hours a day until that detour is in place to allow the residents, the business operators and the truckies to access that highway. This is a major arterial; this is a major highway servicing the Isaac region. We cannot afford to have that particular highway closed for another month.

I am calling on TMR and BMA to work together to get that detour constructed as an absolute priority and to put in place the necessary traffic controls to allow traffic to safely negotiate that detour. We are told that this bridge will take 12 months to replace. That is a substantial amount of time that traffic will have to go around this detour. In the meantime, we have a property owner who has lost up to 20 head of cattle this week because the Dysart to Clermont road that they are travelling at the moment is unfenced in sections. That is what is happening as a consequence of delays in building this detour. It needs to happen now.