



MEDIA RELEASE

Date: Monday 25th January 2010

For immediate release

WET TROPICS IN TURMOIL OVER WATER MORATORIUM

One week after the sudden announcement of a water resources moratorium over Far North Queensland's Wet Tropics region, landowners, primary industry groups and rural businesses remain in turmoil, Member for Hinchinbrook, Andrew Cripps, said today.

Mr Cripps said the widespread uncertainty associated with the moratorium was causing real problems in the Wet Tropics and the lack of information being provided by the Bligh Labor Government was typical of its bureaucratic, authoritarian approach to regional Queensland.

"The uncertainty relates to the fact that the moratorium is open-ended. There is no time frame. Land sales, production growth and rural business suppliers have all been seriously affected by this announcement, which has been very poorly planned by the Bligh Labor Government and once again demonstrates its incompetence" said Mr Cripps.

"I have been contacted by local landowners who were in the middle of negotiating the sale of their farm. As soon as the prospective buyers became aware of the moratorium notice, they withdrew from the negotiations. Those landowners have been disadvantaged" he said.

"I've also been contacted by local drilling companies. Bores are their bread and butter trade. The moratorium is basically a stop work notice for them. They have the normal financial obligations of all small businesses. They have been left in the lurch" said Mr Cripps.

"There will be an impact on local rural supplies outlets. They will have stock just sitting there with little prospect of being sold. There will be no rural industry expansion while the moratorium is in place. They have had the rug pulled out from underneath them" he said.

"The Bligh Labor Government doesn't seem to understand they are dealing with real jobs in these communities. This arrogant decision by Natural Resources by Minister Stephen Robertson has undermined business confidence in the Wet Tropics" said Mr Cripps.

"People want answers. I understand there is very little useful information being provided by DERM on the so-called information hotline. The Bligh Labor Government ought to withdraw the current moratorium notice and start again. DERM should have started this process by sitting down and consulting with the stakeholders groups involved" he said.

Contact:	Andrew Cripps MP Member for Hinchinbrook	Address: PO Box 1515 Ingham Qld 4850	Ph: 07 4776 1428 Fax: 07 4776 3503
----------	---	---	---------------------------------------

E-mail: Hinchinbrook@parliament.qld.gov.au
