



MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

COALITION CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY TRUMPS LABOR ETS

Member for Hinchinbrook, Andrew Cripps, has welcomed the announcement yesterday by Opposition Leader Tony Abbott, of the Federal Coalition's Direct Action Plan that offers a simpler, cheaper and more effective climate change policy to the people of Australia.

Mr Cripps said the Federal Coalition had prepared a balanced response to the challenge of climate change policy, aimed at reducing carbon emissions and protecting the environment, but not compromising industries or jobs, or burdening families with a massive new tax.

"Australians have become much more sceptical about the science on climate change. They are certainly much more sceptical about the Rudd Labor Government's proposal to address the issue by introducing a massive new tax in the form of an ETS" said Mr Cripps.

"The Federal Coalition has had the guts to challenge the Rudd Labor Government on its ETS policy. The Coalition policy is costed at \$10 billion over 10 years, while Labor's proposed ETS is budgeted to cost \$114 billion over 10 years. The key to the Coalition policy is that it relies on incentives, not taxes, to achieve results" he said.

"An Emissions Trading Fund would be established that would allow businesses that cut their emissions below a baseline level to sell their carbon abatement to the government, while businesses that increase their emissions will incur a penalty. Businesses will be able to apply for grants from the fund to adopt new low emissions technology" said Mr Cripps.

"The policy also sets a target for an additional one million homes across Australia to convert to solar energy by 2020 and outlines plans for an additional 20 million trees to be planted across the country, including on reclaimed land in urban areas. Importantly for North Queensland, this does not include unfair tax advantages for plantation forestry" he said.

"Landowners will have an opportunity to benefit through the promotion of soil carbon bio sequestration, a science that is supported by the Garnaut Report, the CSIRO and the Wentworth Group of scientists. Farmers will also be able to apply to the Emissions Trading Fund for grants to adopt the technology to participate in this program" said Mr Cripps.

"This is a real alternative to Rudd's ETS. I commend Mr Abbot for his leadership" he said.

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