



---

## MEDIA RELEASE

---

**Date: Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

**For immediate release**

### **MINISTER PASSES BUCK ON BUSHLAND BEACH EROSION**

Member for Hinchinbrook, Andrew Cripps, has accused the Bligh Government of trying to pass the buck to the local council and local residents for erosion on beach front properties at Bushland Beach caused by a rock wall the State Government has approved twice.

Mr Cripps said in response to his representations on behalf of a number of residents at Waterview Drive, Bushland Beach, the Environment Minister, Kate Jones, tried to brush off suggestions that the State Government should take responsibility for the erosion problems.

“I was very disappointed with the Minister’s reply and its failure to address the fundamental issue I raised about the responsibility of the State Government for the serious erosion that is occurring on the beach front adjacent to Waterview Drive, Bushland Beach” said Mr Cripps.

“Minister Jones completely ignored the fact that since at least 1992, the rock wall has been a lawful structure approved by the State Government, including since 2007, when an approval was issued by the Environmental Protection Agency for its reconstruction” he said.

Mr Cripps said a geomorphologic report by Dr Scott Smithers from James Cook University, prepared for Townsville City Council in 2009, found the rock wall was interfering with natural coastal processes and its construction had a direct relationship with the serious erosion problems being experienced by property owners at Waterview Drive, Bushland Beach.

“An independent expert has identified that relationship. The Minister’s letter fails to deal with the issue of the State Government taking responsibility for remedial works to deal with the subsequent erosion problems, such as beach renourishment” said Mr Cripps.

“Instead, Minister Jones has tried to palm the responsibility off onto the Townsville City Council by nominating it as the lead agency charged with implementing erosion mitigation measures. This is just a buck passing exercise by the State Labor Government” he said.

“Given the relationship between the erosion and the EPA approved rock wall has been clearly established, the State Government should be the lead agency responsible for implementing erosion mitigation measures, not trying to flick pass the costs off on to the local council and residents of Waterview Drive at Bushland Beach” said Mr Cripps.

---

Contact:	Andrew Cripps MP Member for Hinchinbrook	Address: PO Box 1515 Ingham Qld 4850	Ph: 07 4776 1428 Fax: 07 4776 3503
E-mail: <a href="mailto:Hinchinbrook@parliament.qld.gov.au">Hinchinbrook@parliament.qld.gov.au</a>			

---