



---

## MEDIA RELEASE

---

**Date: Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2010**

**For immediate release**

### **CRIPPS APPALLED BY ASSAULT ON INNISFAIL POLICE**

Member for Hinchinbrook, Andrew Cripps, says he is appalled by the assault on two police officers in Innisfail in the early hours of Saturday morning, labelling the attacks as “totally unacceptable” and an incident out of character for communities on the Cassowary Coast.

Mr Cripps said he offered his full support to the two police officers involved and their families on behalf of the local community, who he believed, would be shocked and saddened that yet another act of violence had been directed towards police officers in the district.

“I am extremely disappointed that these assaults have occurred in Innisfail. I was equally distressed in November 2009 when a police officer was assaulted at Mission Beach. It is alarming that North Queensland is a hot spot for assaults on police officers” said Mr Cripps.

“Police officers fulfil crucial and challenging public service roles for the benefit and safety of the wider community. An assault on a police officer in the course of doing their duty is totally unacceptable. It shows a basic lack of respect for the law in our community” he said.

“Police officers do their job in some of the most demanding and stressful situations that our society throws up. We ask our police officers to deal with the most violent, antisocial and dangerous people in our community and enforce the law on our behalf” said Mr Cripps.

“If the law is to be respected, the people we charge with the responsibility of enforcing the law should also be respected. Failure to do so should have serious consequences. It is high time a clear message was sent that this sort of behaviour will not be tolerated” he said.

“I am not saying the police are perfect or that the police are always in the right. Police officers are human beings and they may make mistakes from time to time. However, there can be no excuse for this type of serious assault on a police officer” said Mr Cripps.

Mr Cripps said he strongly supported the LNP Private Members Bill currently before the Queensland Parliament which proposes to introduce mandatory sentences of at least three months gaol for anyone convicted of an assault against a police officer in Queensland.

---

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](mailto:Hinchinbrook@parliament.qld.gov.au)

---