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## MEDIA RELEASE

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**For immediate release**

### **DAYLIGHT SAVING DEBATE IS A LABOR DISTRACTION**

Member for Hinchinbrook, Andrew Cripps, has condemned Premier Bligh and the State Labor Government for proposing to split Queensland into two time zones and accused Labor MP's of using the debate to distract attention away from more pressing issues.

Mr Cripps said while an Independent MP has introduced the Private Members Bill into the State Parliament proposing to introduce daylight saving in south east Queensland, Premier Bligh and Labor MP's had picked up the idea and run with it to create a political diversion.

"This is a cynical political exercise by Anna Bligh and Labor MP's to distract Queenslanders from the serious problems plaguing the State Labor Government. This is a classic smoke and mirrors trick straight out of the Peter Beattie book of political spin" said Mr Cripps.

"We have thousands of Queensland Health workers who have not been paid properly for two pay cycles. Regional Queenslanders are hurting from increased transport costs following the loss of the fuel tax rebate scrapped by the Bligh Labor Government" he said.

"The fire sale of state owned assets continues despite fierce opposition across the state and debt is out of control. Yet, with this tricky political manoeuvre, the Bligh Labor Government has distracted everyone's attention away from these serious problems" said Mr Cripps.

Mr Cripps said he was strongly opposed to the introduction of daylight saving in North Queensland and went on to say that the proposal to split Queensland into two time zones to provide for daylight saving in the south east of the state would not solve any problems.

"Daylight savings does not suit our climate in North Queensland. It just does not work because of our geographical position. I understand the alternative argument put forward by south east Queenslanders, but splitting the state won't solve the problem" said Mr Cripps.

"They currently have logistical problems at the border between Queensland and New South Wales. Those problems will be replicated if you draw an arbitrary line on the map to divide south east Queensland and the rest of the state for the purposes of daylight saving" he said.

"The LNP has no plans to introduce daylight saving. The LNP will not be distracted and will keep the pressure on the Bligh Labor Government over its long list of failures" he said.

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