



MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

TOWNSVILLE RATEPAYERS BETRAYED BY BLIGH LABOR

Member for Hinchinbrook, Andrew Cripps, says Townsville ratepayers have been disadvantaged and misled after an application for funding submitted by Townsville City Council to the Bligh Labor Government to recover costs associated with the amalgamation of the former cities of Townsville and Thuringowa, was rejected.

Mr Cripps, whose state electorate of Hinchinbrook includes Northern Beaches area of Townsville City between the Bohle River and Crystal Creek, said Townsville ratepayers had a right to feel betrayed and angry, given the State Labor Government promised no local government or ratepayer would be worse off as a result of a forced council amalgamation.

“TCC submitted this application two years ago and has been left waiting by the Bligh Labor Government. Having forced the amalgamation of Townsville and Thuringowa, the Bligh Labor Government is now renegeing on its promise that the ratepayers would not be left to carry the can for the costs of bringing two administrations together” said Mr Cripps.

“It has been reported that TCC will have to recover this shortfall through rate increases. This will have a negative impact on Townsville ratepayers, including my constituents in the Hinchinbrook electorate on the Northern Beaches of Townsville. This is just another example of Labor saying one thing and doing another” he said.

“The forced amalgamation process was costly and Townsville ratepayers will now pick up the bill, thanks to the Bligh Labor Government. Townsville ratepayers and Queenslanders generally are already suffering from the loss of the fuel tax rebate, increasing electricity tariffs and increasing vehicle registration under Anna Bligh and Labor” said Mr Cripps.

“It was a clear political tactic by the Bligh Labor Government to delay announcing the rejection of these applications until it considered enough time had passed and the “no disadvantage” promise was a distant memory. Unfortunately, when rates notices are next issued in Townsville, ratepayers will be reminded of this kick in the guts by Labor” he said.

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