



MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

CRIPPS BACKS LNP MINISTER FOR THE NORTH

Member for Hinchinbrook, Andrew Cripps, has warmly welcomed the announcement by Opposition Leader John-Paul Langbroek that an LNP Government in Queensland would include a dedicated Minister for North Queensland and said it was another clear demonstration that the Liberal National Party would govern for all Queenslanders.

Mr Cripps said the announcement, made during a visit by the LNP Shadow Cabinet to Ingham, reflected the commitment that the LNP had made to listen carefully to the particular needs and concerns of regional Queenslanders that had been ignored by the Bligh Labor Government, which was burdening industry and business with red tape and bureaucracy.

“The Minister for North Queensland in an LNP Government will be based in North Queensland and the Director-General of the Department will be based in North Queensland. This initiative is designed to address the disconnection between public policy makers based in Brisbane and the circumstances on the ground in North Queensland” said Mr Cripps.

“The LNP has fought hard against the recent policies of the Bligh Labor Government that have hurt North Queensland, including the new fuel tax, over regulation of primary production activities, spiralling electricity prices and now a proposed daylight saving referendum, because the LNP is committed to supporting North Queenslanders” he said.

“A Minister for North Queensland is the next step in cementing the voice of North Queensland in an LNP Government. North Queensland communities and industries will have a direct input into the decision making process in relation to issues that impact on them. This is an exciting announcement from John-Paul Langbroek” said Mr Cripps.

“North Queensland is already a major contributor to Queensland’s economy, especially through its export industries, which generates an enormous amount of wealth for the State Government. With its abundant land, water and minerals, North Queensland will also play a huge part in the future of this state, but this needs to be planned properly” he said.

“A Minister for North Queensland would spearhead efforts to encourage decentralisation and deliver infrastructure and services to communities in the north to accommodate and support the jobs that can be created to take advantage of these abundant resources. Only the LNP has committed to appointing a champion for North Queensland” said Mr Cripps.

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