



NORTHERN BEACHES BULLETIN

Andrew Cripps MP

State Member for Hinchinbrook

Shadow Minister for Disability Services and Multicultural Affairs

(Proudly Representing Townsville's Northern Beaches including - Black River, Bluewater, Bushland Beach, Burdell, Herveys Range, Mt Low, Purono Park, Saunders Beach, Toolakea, Toomulla, and Yabulu)

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LNP TO APPOINT MINISTER FOR NORTH QUEENSLAND

Opposition Leader John-Paul Langbroek has announced that a new LNP Government would include a Minister for North Queensland, demonstrating that the LNP would govern for all Queenslanders.

The LNP is committed to responding to the particular needs and concerns of regional and rural Queenslanders, including North Queenslanders, who have been ignored by the Bligh Labor Government.

The Minister for North Queensland would 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.

The 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 processes in relation to the important issues that impact on them on a daily basis.

North Queensland is a major contributor to the states' economy, which generates an enormous amount of wealth for the State Government. To continue this progress, we need economic and social infrastructure.

A Minister for North Queensland will ensure the north gets its fair share. I am very pleased that the LNP has committed itself to appointing a champion for North Queensland.

Welcome to the May – June 2010 edition of the Northern Beaches Bulletin. I would like to congratulate the organising committee of the 2010 Northern Beaches Festival on a job very well done. As always, I very much enjoyed attending a number of the scheduled events. The committee always welcomes new members and volunteers. You can be involved in the Northern Beaches Festival in 2011. Check out the website: www.nbf.websyte.com.au.

**ANDREW CRIPPS MP
MEMBER FOR HINCHINBROOK**

FAIR TRADING – KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

As a consumer, you have legal rights when you purchase goods and services in Queensland. Goods and services must meet a certain standard or have an appropriate warranty.

If you have bought something that broke straight away, have been pressured into buying something you didn't want or feel you have been ripped off, Fair Trading can advise what your rights and responsibilities are.

They can also assist by providing information on:

- Buying a car
- Renting furniture and household goods
- Mobile phone contracts
- Lay-buys
- Refunds and returning goods
- Faulty goods, warranties and guarantees
- Repairs and disputes

For more information call Fair Trading on 13 13 04 or visit www.fairtrading.qld.gov.au.

LABOR RAID ON COMMUNITY CHEST A NEW LOW

I am very concerned by the Bligh Labor Government's announcement that it will raid \$10 million from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund to prop up one of its own programs involving small solar power projects. This is a new low for Labor, which is pinching funds from a key source of financial support for community based not-for-profit organisations in Queensland, including the Northern Beaches.

Grants from the GCBF have been an important opportunity for volunteer groups in the Hinchinbrook electorate to secure funds for projects they might not otherwise be able to afford. Every sporting club, every school P & C or P & F, every charity and every community organisation is now worse off because of this decision by the Bligh Labor Government.

The GCBF has become a real "community chest". For the last 12 years, Labor has squandered taxpayers money on a long list of failed policies and driven up state debt to record levels. Now they have got their hands on a small bucket of money that has been very helpful to community organisations across the state to help fund one of their failed policies.

I am extremely disappointed community volunteers will be so badly disadvantaged.

2010 FEDERAL ELECTION COMMENT

A federal election is due before the end of this year. The Rudd Labor Government has delivered a series of policy disasters, including the dangerous home ceiling insulation scheme and running up record levels of government debt since taking over from the former Coalition Government, which left behind a surplus.

The Rudd Labor Government is promoting a new agenda for disaster in its next term, including a plan to add another layer of bureaucracy to an already bloated health care and hospital system and to cripple the mining and resources sector with a super-profits tax. The choice is simple. Families living on Townsville's Northern Beaches don't need a more complicated health system and they don't need their jobs in the mining and resources sector destroyed by another term of Labor.

The Northern Beaches of Townsville, although united in the Hinchinbrook electorate at a state level, are now divided between two federal electorates, Herbert and Kennedy, between Bluewater and Rollingstone. Ewen Jones is the LNP Candidate for Herbert and Ed Morrisson is the LNP Candidate for Kennedy. I hope you will support the LNP and the Federal Coalition under Tony Abbott, so we can have a change of government for the better in Canberra.

MAKING THE SWITCH TO DIGITAL TV?

The Household Assistance Scheme will help **eligible households** to receive digital free-to-air TV signals. This package is **free of charge**, with a maximum of one per household (including if you move house or change residence) and will be provided by qualified government-contracted installers. It includes:

- A high definition (HD) set top box
- The set up and installation of the set top box
- Instructions on how to use it
- Any necessary upgrades to cabling and antenna systems.

To be eligible you or your partner must receive the maximum rate of one of the following payments:

Age Pension, Disability Support Pension, Carer Payment, Dept of Veterans' Affairs Service Pension or Department of Veterans' Affairs Income Support Supplement. You must not currently have access to digital TV and also must live in a TV licence area that is currently switching to digital. The scheme will be available for six months before and one month after the switch to digital in your region which for Regional Queensland will be in the 2nd half of 2011. For a brochure or further information on this scheme please contact the Hinchinbrook Electorate Office on the above details.