



MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

CRIPPS TO DEFEND EAST PALMERSTON & MORESBY STATE SCHOOLS

Member for Hinchinbrook, Andrew Cripps, has promised to do everything he can to defend East Palmerston and Moresby State Schools from closure, after he received notification today that Education Queensland has commenced a review of the viability of both schools.

Mr Cripps said he had received a letter from Education Minister, Geoff Wilson, advising that a formal viability review would be undertaken due to what Education Queensland considered to be very low enrolments at Moresby and East Palmerston State Schools.

"I am very disappointed with this advice from Minister Wilson who obviously is unaware of the circumstances on the ground at Moresby and East Palmerston State Schools. I will be fighting for the students, parents and staff of these two great little schools" said Mr Cripps.

"I worked hard along side the P & C at Moresby in 2008 to stop the school being closed and we were successful at that time. I can't believe the Bligh Labor Government could be so heartless as to target Moresby again, less than two years after the last review" he said.

"This constant uncertainty is very disruptive for the students and staff and undermines the confidence of parents in the school. This repeated threat of closure by the Bligh Labor Government makes it impossible for the school to get on with the businesses of teaching and learning. Education Queensland should just leave Moresby alone" said Mr Cripps.

Mr Cripps said he had found East Palmerston State School, which currently has 18 enrolled students, to be very strongly supported by the P & C and the local community since he had become involved with the school after it came into the Hinchinbrook electorate in 2009.

"It is a pleasure to participate in the school community at East Palmerston. It has a good reputation and the parents of students at the school are extremely alarmed by the Bligh Labor Government's threat to close the school, as is the local community" said Mr Cripps.

"I am aware of East Palmerston students with special needs that have made real progress because of the closer attention teachers can give individuals at small schools. Some parents choose to send their children to small schools for this reason. I hope that is taken into consideration by Education Queensland during this consultation process" he said.

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