



---

## CASSOWARY COAST COURIER COLUMN JUNE 2010

---

**Date: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

**For immediate release**

It is a pleasure to be invited to submit a column for the Cassowary Coast Courier. This magazine is focused on promoting to the local community, the wonderful lifestyle that we enjoy in the Cassowary Coast region. There is plenty to promote. We are indeed lucky to live in a place with wonderful natural attractions, with the opportunity to pursue a range of recreational activities that others pay a lot of money to experience on holidays.

However, for all of the advantages that we enjoy, North Queenslanders also face some disadvantages, particularly in relation to the relative lack of investment by government in infrastructure and services outside of the densely populated south-east of the state. I believe it is possible for Queensland to have a good government that is capable of making decisions for the good of all Queenslanders, including regional and rural Queenslanders.

This is why I warmly welcomed the announcement by Opposition Leader, John-Paul Langbroek, that a future LNP Government in Queensland would include a dedicated Minister for North Queensland. This is a clear demonstration that the Liberal National Party will govern for all Queenslanders and has a commitment to listen carefully to the particular needs and concerns of regional Queenslanders, ignored by the Bligh Labor Government.

The Minister for North Queensland in an LNP Government 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. Importantly, a Minister for North Queensland would cement the voice of North Queensland at the cabinet table in an LNP Government.

North Queensland is a major contributor to Queensland's economy, especially through its export industries, which generate an enormous amount of wealth for the State Government. With its abundant land, water and minerals, North Queensland will play a huge part in the future of this state. Through the Minister, North Queenslanders will have a direct input into the government's decision making process in relation to issues that impact on them.

A Minister for North Queensland would spearhead efforts to encourage decentralisation and deliver infrastructure and services to communities 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. I believe North Queensland has a great opportunity to progress in the future under a new LNP Government.

---

Contact:	Andrew Cripps MP Member for Hinchinbrook	Address:	PO Box 1515 Ingham Qld 4850	Ph:	07 4776 1428
		E-mail:	<a href="mailto:Hinchinbrook@parliament.qld.gov.au">Hinchinbrook@parliament.qld.gov.au</a>	Fax:	07 4776 3503

---