



MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

CRIPPS TAKES MIS DEBACLE TO STATE PARLIAMENT

Member for Hinchinbrook, Andrew Cripps, has taken his concerns about the neglect by failed MIS companies to meet basic standards of land management on plantation forestry properties across North Queensland, which are infested with pest weeds and feral animals, to State Parliament, in an effort to force the Bligh Labor Government to take action.

Speaking in the Queensland Parliament today, Mr Cripps said during a recent tour of his electorate, he documented the absolutely disgraceful state of disrepair of failed MIS properties in the Herbert River district, the Tully district and the Innisfail district.

“Last week, I lodged formal complaints about the disastrous land management practices of failed MIS companies that have established plantation forestry properties across North Queensland. These failed MIS companies have left behind an environmental disaster on a massive scale, creating huge problems for neighbouring landowners” said Mr Cripps.

“I believe DERM has been negligent in allowing the properties of these MIS companies to fall into such a terrible state of disrepair. The Bligh Labor Government is being hypocritical following 12 months of imposing several layers of regulation on North Queensland farmers for supposedly being responsible for hurting the Great Barrier Reef” he said.

“The Bligh Government has ignored the failure of these absentee landowners to meet basic land management standards. While private landowners in North Queensland have had new regulations imposed on them, DERM has been fully aware that these MIS companies were failing miserably to do basic maintenance on their properties” said Mr Cripps.

“It demonstrates terrible double standards on the part of the Bligh Labor Government. With the height and volume of unmanaged pest weeds on some MIS properties, local landowners have expressed serious concerns about the risk of fires in the coming dry season and the damage they could cause to neighbouring farms” he said.

“Now these MIS companies are going broke, they are dumping the costs of managing their properties on neighbouring landowners. Given the economic cost, the environmental damage and the fire safety concerns involved and given the size of the problem, I believe it is fair to say we have an emergency on our hands in North Queensland” said Mr Cripps.

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