



MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

STATE BUDGET 2010 – EDUCATION & ENVIRONMENT

HINCHINBROOK ELECTORATE

Member for Hinchinbrook, Andrew Cripps, says the 2010 – 2011 State Budgets for the Hinchinbrook electorate in the areas of Education and the Environment was very modest.

Mr Cripps said he was very disappointed that despite more than 40 schools being either located in or servicing communities in his electorate of Hinchinbrook, only one school would benefit from any capital funding in the budget handed down by the Bligh Labor Government.

“I welcome the \$1.5 million allocation for the construction of a new kindergarten at Bluewater State School. Bluewater is a growing area on the Northern Beaches of Townsville where young families need to access early education facilities. I am pleased that the needs of this growing school in my electorate has been recognised” said Mr Cripps.

“However, for this to be the extent of new capital funding in the budget for schools in my electorate is a real concern. Students and staff in schools within the Hinchinbrook electorate and servicing communities in the Hinchinbrook electorate deserve a fair go from the Bligh Labor Government as far as facilities and resources are concerned” he said.

Mr Cripps said he was also concerned about the absence of any clear allocation in the 2010-2011 budget for the new Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service Ranger Station in Cardwell, which was first promised by the Bligh Government in the 2008-2009 budget.

“This project is already long overdue. When projects are delayed and carried over into subsequently budgets, it makes a mockery of the budget process. The new QPWS Ranger base in Cardwell was already a recycled item in the 2009 – 2010 state budget, but now it appears that it has disappeared altogether from the budget papers” said Mr Cripps.

“I certainly hope that this is just an oversight and that this important project for Cardwell has not been abandoned by the Bligh Labor Government. I will be asking questions of the Environment Minister about the failure of the Bligh Government to deliver this project on time and about the absence of any specific budget allocation in the budget papers” he said.

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