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## MEDIA RELEASE

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**For immediate release**

### **MIS CAMPAIGN UPDATE: GARRETT PASSES THE BUCK**

Member for Hinchinbrook, Andrew Cripps, says Federal Environment Minister, Peter Garrett, has been the first State or Federal Minister to reply to his formal complaint about the disgraceful land management practices of failed MIS companies on North Queensland forestry plantations and in doing so, has been the first Labor Minister to pass the buck.

Mr Cripps said he received a two sentence response dated 8<sup>th</sup> June 2010 from Minister Garrett today, the first sentence thanking him for his letter and the second sentence advising that the issue was the responsibility of Federal Agriculture Minister, Tony Burke.

"I have already sent the letter to Minister Burke and Treasurer Wayne Swan at the Federal level and the Environment Minister, Kate Jones, the Primary Industries Minister, Tim Mulherin and the Emergency Services Minister, Neil Roberts at the State level. All of these people, including Minister Garrett, have a responsibility to act on this issue" said Mr Cripps.

"Peter Garrett is supposed to be the Federal Environment Minister. Yet when he is faced with a serious environmental problem across a large area of North Queensland, he just passes the buck. This is an appalling response from the Rudd Labor Government" he said.

"This problem involves pest weeds of national significance and non-native feral pigs that do enormous damage to the natural environment. Some of these properties are adjacent to World Heritage listed Wet Tropics rainforests and others are adjacent to waterways that flow into the World Heritage listed Great Barrier Reef Marine Park" said Mr Cripps.

"With Peter Garrett's record, I suppose it's no surprise he is trying desperately to flick pass responsibility for another issue to someone else. Kevin Rudd took responsibility for climate change policy away from him and gave it to Penny Wong and then took responsibility for the home insulation program away from him and gave it to Greg Combet" he said.

"Now the Federal Environment Minister, Peter Garrett, is refusing to act on an environmental disaster in North Queensland that affects not one, but two World Heritage areas. The big question now is, is Peter Garrett responsible for anything?" said Mr Cripps.

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