



MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

BLIGH LABOR'S GREEN HYPOCRISY

Member for Hinchinbrook, Andrew Cripps, says a report by the Auditor – General that revealed only 98 of the 576 (17 %) National Parks in Queensland had a management plan in place, exposed the Bligh Labor Government's rank hypocrisy on environmental issues.

Mr Cripps said the report demonstrated that despite the *Nature Conservation Act* requiring a plan to be developed for each National Park across Queensland, the Bligh Labor Government had absolutely no commitment to protecting their conservation values.

"At the same time, the Bligh Labor Government is forcing farmers in North Queensland to spend countless hours complying with new regulations, supposedly to save the Great Barrier Reef, that require them to submit an Environmental Risk Management Plan (ERMP) to the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM)" said Mr Cripps.

"While the Bligh Labor Government is demanding that farmers in North Queensland comply with complex and heavy handed regulations concerning the environment, its own department is failing to comply with its own legislation concerning the proper management of National Parks. That is the definition of hypocrisy and it is a disgrace" he said.

"The most extraordinary and galling statement from Environment Minister, Kate Jones, after the report was released last week, was her excuse that it would cost too much for DERM to comply with the provisions of the *Nature Conservation Act* and that developing management plans for all of Queensland's National Park's would be a waste of taxpayers money" he said.

"This is the same Environment Minister that point blank refused to acknowledge the huge costs of compliance faced by North Queensland farmers as a result of the unnecessary and unfair regulations imposed on them by the Bligh Labor Government" said Mr Cripps.

"I questioned Minister Jones directly in parliament about the loss of production, the loss of income, the wasted time and the increased cost of compliance for North Queensland farmers when the Bligh Labor Government forced these new regulations through" he said.

"The Bligh Labor Government claims it doesn't want to waste taxpayer's money on useless management plans for Queensland's National Parks, but they are more than happy to waste the time and money of North Queensland farmers on useless regulations" said Mr Cripps.

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