



MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

PITT SUPPORTS CRIPPS ON CROC MANAGEMENT

Member for Hinchinbrook, Andrew Cripps, has welcomed the belated support from Member for Mulgrave, Curtis Pitt, for his long running campaign for the removal of crocodiles identified near swimming holes and hoped he could count on Mr Pitt to help change the law.

Mr Cripps, who has been campaigning for several years to have the Crocodile Management Plan changed so that crocodiles identified near populated areas and public facilities are removed immediately, said it was not only swimming holes where people were threatened.

“In many respects, my electorate of Hinchinbrook and Mr Pitt’s electorate of Mulgrave are very similar. Our electorates have similar environments and our communities have similar recreational interests. It’s no surprise Mr Pitt is concerned about this issue” said Mr Cripps.

“My only concern is Mr Pitt appears to have limited his comments to popular swimming holes, but people are increasingly put at risk at public facilities like boat ramps and stinger nets because the crocodile population has increased significantly in recent years” he said.

“Mr Pitt has identified being able to enjoy popular swimming holes as a lifestyle issue for North Queenslanders. I would put it to him that being able to launch and retrieve your boat at a boat ramp and swim at a stinger net safely are also lifestyle issues” said Mr Cripps.

Mr Cripps said changes to the definition of a “problem crocodile” last year had done little to address community concerns, because the decision to remove a crocodile still depended on several criteria including its behaviour, its location and the number of people in the area.

“What this means is the decision to remove a problem crocodile is still tied up in red tape, instead of putting the safety of the community first. For this reason, North Queenslanders have had no confidence in the Crocodile Management Plan for years” said Mr Cripps.

“This is not an unreasonable request. This is a commonsense approach in the interests of community safety. Unfortunately for the Member for Mulgrave, it is the Bligh Labor Government he is part of that refuses to listen to the people of North Queensland” he said.

Mr Cripps said he hoped the Bligh Labor Government would not wait until a tragedy occurred in North Queensland to take action and amend the Crocodile Management Plan.

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