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## MEDIA RELEASE

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**Date: Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

**For immediate release**

### **EL ARISH PETITIONS FOR SAFER BRUCE HIGHWAY**

Member for Hinchinbrook, Andrew Cripps, has lodged a petition in State Parliament on behalf of 126 petitioners in his electorate relating to the speed limit on the Bruce Highway through the town of El Arish, requesting that the speed limit be reduced from 80 to 60 km/h.

Mr Cripps said the petitioners had expressed concerns on the grounds El Arish was the only town of its size on the Bruce Highway between Cardwell and Cairns that did not have a 60 km/h speed limit, has four residential streets directly connected to the highway and has a very busy intersection on the highway, being the El Arish – Mission Beach road intersection.

“The petitioners have put forward a reasonable request to be treated equally and fairly. While the intersection between the Bruce Highway and the El Arish – Mission Beach Road does have turning lanes for both north and south bound traffic, they are concerned that these are inadequate to accommodate the traffic that use this intersection” said Mr Cripps.

“The four residential streets in the town of El Arish that are directly connected to the Bruce Highway, being Royston, Rynie, Wilson and Glasgow Streets, have neither north bound nor south bound turning lanes to facilitate traffic turning off the Bruce Highway” he said.

“The petitioners would be satisfied with either turning lanes being installed to accept traffic entering these residential streets, or the speed limit on the Bruce Highway through the town of El Arish being reduced from 80 to 60 km/h, but point out the reduction of the speed limit would be the quickest and least expensive of the two options” said Mr Cripps.

“However, I am conscious of the fact the Bruce Highway is the National Highway and that the Department of Main Roads may have a view that it is desirable to keep traffic moving at a reasonable speed on this major road and transport route. If this is the case, the Department of Main Roads needs to provide funding for these turning lanes” he said.

Mr Cripps called on the Main Roads Minister to give the petition serious consideration and requested a traffic survey be undertaken to demonstrate the adequacy of the Bruce Highway / El Arish – Mission Beach Road intersection and measure the volume of traffic through El Arish and the number of vehicles turning into residential streets connected to the highway.

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