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## MEDIA RELEASE

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**For immediate release**

### **CRIPPS KEEN FOR NEW CHALLENGES**

Member for Hinchinbrook, Andrew Cripps, has welcomed his appointment in the new LNP Shadow Cabinet as the Shadow Minister for North Queensland, Reef Protection, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Economic Development and Shadow Minister for Public Works.

Mr Cripps said just as he had looked forward to the challenges in his previous disability services and multicultural affairs portfolio, he was excited by this new role with responsibilities for public works across the state, economic development of indigenous communities, managing of our iconic reef and being a champion for North Queensland.

“Being born and raised in North Queensland, I am determined to be a strong voice for North Queensland in a Langbroek LNP Government. I see the role as acting as North Queensland’s chief advocate, working towards empowering the region as a whole and recognising its huge contribution to the economic success of the state” said Mr Cripps.

“The federal Liberal National Coalition was responsible for declaring the Great Barrier Reef as a marine park and having it listed as a World Heritage area. The LNP is absolutely committed to the ongoing conservation of our iconic reef, but I have been amongst the strongest critics of the Bligh Labor Government for using the reef as a political tool” he said.

“Reef policies should be delivering outcomes for the reef, not delivering preference deals for the Bligh Labor Government. I will be working to ensure our reef is conserved for future generations, recreational fishermen are not locked out, tourism and commercial fishing have a sustainable future and farmers and graziers are not demonised” said Mr Cripps.

“Historically, the LNP has driven and delivered on democratic empowerment of for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The LNP is now determined to deliver on the economic empowerment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Queensland to turn communities of welfare into communities of enterprise” he said.

“The public works portfolio is a more traditional and very important responsibility. The LNP has been pressing the Bligh Labor Government on a range of issues concerning the handling of asbestos and the review of the Building Services Authority. I will be focused on achieving better service outcomes for Queenslanders in this area” said Mr Cripps.

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