



---

## MEDIA RELEASE

---

**Date: Wednesday 16 February 2011**

**For immediate release**

### **CRIPPS STILL FIGHTING FOR POWER & TRANSPORT ASSISTANCE**

Member for Hinchinbrook, Andrew Cripps, has welcomed the announcement today of the assistance package for businesses and farmers devastated by Cyclone Yasi, including Category C and D level NDRRA assistance from the State and Federal Governments.

Mr Cripps said he was grateful that the State and Federal Governments had recognised the significant needs of industries devastated by Cyclone Yasi, but that he would continue to campaign for fuel excise relief payments and a support package for the transport industry.

“This morning, there were still 7,421 customers without power in my electorate from Ingham to Innisfail. Damage to power lines in these areas ranges from serious to catastrophic. In some rural areas, people will be without power for several weeks” said Mr Cripps.

“Many households, businesses and farmers are relying on generators. After Cyclone Larry, the Howard Government assisted businesses, farmers and households generating their own power by refunding the excise on diesel and petrol until supply was restored” he said.

“I urge the Federal and State Governments to provide fuel excise relief to households, farmers and businesses. Recent increases in the price of fuel have unfortunately exacerbated the problem faced by households, businesses and farmers” said Mr Cripps.

“Transport operators that normally carry North Queensland products to southern markets have been left without loads and face the prospect of huge increases in costs to bring goods back to North Queensland, which could lead to a blow out in the cost of living” he said.

“The cost of hauling loads back into North Queensland from the south will be astronomical and freight costs have already increased. Back-loading doesn’t exist in the transport industry any more. Both legs of the journey need to be economically viable” said Mr Cripps.

“A blow out in the cost of living on top of a shortage of housing and the loss of employment following Cyclone Yasi would be diabolical. I urge the Federal and State Government’s to amend its support package to provide assistance to the transport industry” he said.

Mr Cripps said he recognised the support package had been developed in consultation with industry groups, but felt these two gaps in the package were too important to ignore.

---

Contact:	Andrew Cripps MP Member for Hinchinbrook	Address:	PO Box 1515 Ingham Qld 4850	Ph:	07 4776 1428
		E-mail:	<a href="mailto:Hinchinbrook@parliament.qld.gov.au">Hinchinbrook@parliament.qld.gov.au</a>	Fax:	07 4776 3503

---