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## MEDIA RELEASE

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**For immediate release**

### **CRIPPS SETS AGENDA FOR YASI RECONSTRUCTION**

Member for Hinchinbrook, Andrew Cripps, has outlined his agenda for the reconstruction of communities in his electorate devastated by Cyclone Yasi and pleaded with the new Queensland Reconstruction Authority to do more than simply repair existing infrastructure.

Speaking in the Queensland Parliament this week during debate on the *Queensland Reconstruction Authority Bill*, Mr Cripps said he believed the Authority would have failed if it did not substantially improve infrastructure in communities affected by Cyclone Yasi.

"Restoring damaged infrastructure to pre-Yasi condition would be an opportunity lost. The new Authority has been given a lot of power. I will be bitterly disappointed if cyclone affected communities do not come out of this with better infrastructure" said Mr Cripps.

"There is an urgent need to deliver much improved commercial and recreational boating facilities at Mission Beach, a hub of the tourism industry in my electorate. An opportunity to deliver projects to address this issues was not seized after Cyclone Larry in 2006" he said.

Mr Cripps said he had been very disappointed with the failure of the State Government to address several issues in the Herbert River district after the major flood event in 2009 and renewed his call for flood-free access over Palm Creek, relocation of the flood prone Ingham fire station, better drainage infrastructure and improved access to Ingham Airport.

"Rebuilding Tully State High School, which has been very badly damaged and redeveloping the pavilion, the grandstand and the indoor sports centre at the showgrounds in Tully are my priorities for public infrastructure reconstruction in the Tully district" said Mr Cripps.

"Revisiting the issue of affordable sewerage with a view to progressing construction during the wider reconstruction of the township and the restoration and protection of the foreshore area are my priorities for public infrastructure improvements in the Cardwell district" he said.

Mr Cripps said while he welcomed Premier Bligh, Prime Minister Gillard and other Ministers visiting the Hinchinbrook electorate to see the scale and scope of the damage caused by Cyclone Yasi, the time was quickly approaching for the State and Federal Governments to make commitments to major public infrastructure projects in the affected area.

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