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## MEDIA RELEASE

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**For immediate release**

### **CRIPPS FOCUSED ON DEFEATING LABOR**

Member for Hinchinbrook, Andrew Cripps, says he is more focused than ever on defeating the Bligh Labor Government at the next state election, following the decision of the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Campbell Newman, to run for state parliament and the LNP leadership.

Mr Cripps said while the events of the last few days had certainly been unorthodox, he believed the decision by Campbell Newman to enter state parliament would increase support for the LNP across the state, given his strong reputation as a “can do” leader.

“Campbell Newman has been a very successful Lord Mayor of Brisbane, which is Australia’s largest local government authority. Campbell Newman has delivered major infrastructure projects to the City of Brisbane during his two terms in office” said Mr Cripps.

“In my region, North Queensland, infrastructure is an issue that has been put in the too hard basket by the Beattie/Bligh Labor Government. It’s all red tape, delays and excuses under Labor. Campbell Newman and the LNP have a proven track record in this area” he said.

Mr Cripps paid tribute to former leader John - Paul Langbroek and former deputy leader, Lawrence Springborg, who he said had worked tirelessly to promote the LNP, made very significant contributions and acted graciously during the course of the last few days.

“This has been a difficult time for many people, particularly John - Paul and Lawrence. John – Paul is a true gentleman and a good friend of mine who has really worked very hard over the last two years as Leader to travel regularly to North Queensland” said Mr Cripps.

“I am sure there is still a very important role of John – Paul in the LNP in state parliament and in a future LNP Government in Queensland. John – Paul has stated that he remains fully committed to defeating the Bligh Labor Government at the next state election” he said.

Mr Cripps said the complete failure of the Bligh Labor Government to address issues such as the spiralling costs of electricity, the need for improved infrastructure and the over regulation of business and industry was hurting North Queensland communities.

“I am fully focused on defeating this failed Bligh Labor Government” said Mr Cripps.

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