



MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

BLIGH LABOR SUB-CONTRACTS CYCLONE SHELTER PROMISE

Hinchinbrook MP, Andrew Cripps, says the Bligh Labor Government had reached a new low as it resorted to subcontracting to overseas countries, the funding of a broken election promise to build cyclone rated shelters in Queensland communities vulnerable to cyclones.

Mr Cripps warmly welcomed the generous gift by the United Arab Emirates State of Abu Dhabi for its \$30 million commitment to help build shelters in communities vulnerable to cyclones, but said the announcement underlined the failure of the Bligh Labor Government.

“I asked several questions in parliament earlier this year about Labor’s 2006 election commitment to build cyclone rated shelters in communities vulnerable to cyclones. The Bligh Government ducked and weaved and offered all sorts of excuses” said Mr Cripps.

“Very little progress has been made after Labor’s election commitment following Cyclone Larry in 2006 – a fact that was underlined by Cyclone Yasi in 2011. It’s now clear very little would still be happening without this generous offer from Abu Dhabi” he said.

Mr Cripps said the Bligh Labor Government’s press release announcing the funding was short on detail about where the shelters would be constructed and was concerned that the Herbert River district, based on the town of Ingham, appeared to have been overlooked.

“The Herbert River district isn’t mentioned at all, while several different communities in the cyclone prone Cassowary Coast region, such as Tully and Cardwell, at this point in time appear to have been lumped in together. That’s not going to be practical” said Mr Cripps.

“Perhaps the Bligh Labor Government is making the assumption that people will always be able to move freely between communities and travel to the odd town that has an Abu Dhabi sponsored cyclone shelter, during North Queensland’s wet season” he said.

“The fact is Labor never had any intention of funding its 2006 election commitment to deliver cyclone rated shelters to vulnerable communities. It was just political spin” said Mr Cripps.

“It’s sad the Bligh Government’s mismanagement of the state’s finances means the only hope we have is sponsorship from overseas and we thank Abu Dhabi in that regard” he said.

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