

From: LNP Media [LNP.Media@opposition.qld.gov.au]
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Subject: MEDIA RELEASE - LNP calls for support for hundreds of Golden Circle beetroot jobs

Andrew Cripps MP

Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Food and Regional Queensland
Member for Hinchinbrook

27 May 2011

LNP calls for support for hundreds of Golden Circle beetroot jobs

THE hundreds of jobs lost today at Heinz-Golden Circle were further victims of the lagging business confidence in Queensland under Labor.

The LNP has called on the State and Federal governments to save hundreds of jobs about to be lost in flood-ravaged Lockyer Valley in the wake of Heinz/Golden Circle's decision to end processing at its Northgate cannery.

LNP Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Regional Queensland Andrew Cripps said the closure by Heinz/Golden Circle had resulted in 160 jobs being lost at the Northgate processing plant and would hit hundreds more in the Lockyer Valley.

"The shame is that earlier this week the Premier tried to claim that Queensland was number one, despite the fact that Queensland is at the bottom of the economic league table.

"Tonight, hundreds of Queensland families who are victims of today's announcement have first hand confirmation that all is not well," Mr Cripps said.

"These families need support now, more than ever, from the State and Federal government.

"The processing workers at Northgate are in the heart of Wayne Swan's own electorate, and of course the State Treasurer Andrew Fraser went to the last election promising to grow jobs.

"The Queensland economy is last in the economic state of origin, further confirmed today with these Queensland jobs now being off-shored to New Zealand."

Mr Cripps said the decision would hit Lockyer farmers, casual field workers and transport operators who produced upwards of 20,000 tonnes of beetroot a year for Golden Circle.

He said the loss of 160 jobs at the Northgate cannery would hit many northern Brisbane families, particularly migrant families who'd been given their start in Australia at the factory.

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