



MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

MEETING PLANS PROGRESS AT PORT HINCHINBROOK

Member for Hinchinbrook, Andrew Cripps, met in Cardwell today with representatives from the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM), the Office of the Co-ordinator General, the Cassowary Coast Regional Council, the Cardwell Going Forward committee and local residents about the recovery effort at Port Hinchinbrook.

Mr Cripps said he had requested the meeting with DERM and the Co-ordinator General after he had been approached by several local residents with concerns about the recovery effort at Port Hinchinbrook following Cyclone Yasi, with a view to establishing exactly how the state government agencies involved were addressing their responsibilities.

"I thank the Deputy Co-ordinator General, Damien Walker and the Regional Services Director from DERM, Andrew Buckley, for taking the time to attend the meeting and for affording the issues the attention they deserved. The meeting was constructive and was focused on how best to progress several major issues" said Mr Cripps.

"The two major issues that require the most urgent attention are the sewerage treatment infrastructure and the need to recommence dredging the access channel to the public boat ramp and the marina at Port Hinchinbrook. DERM and the Co-ordinator General both have an important role to play in addressing these two significant issues" he said.

"As the Member for Hinchinbrook, my responsibility is to ensure the state government agencies with obligations at Port Hinchinbrook, as far as the Deed of Agreement is concerned, are doing their job. The responsibilities of DERM and the Co-ordinator General at Port Hinchinbrook are complex, made even more so by Cyclone Yasi" said Mr Cripps.

"I have made it clear to DERM and the Co-ordinator General that I expect them to have a plan in place to ensure the maintenance of the sewerage treatment plant and the dredging of the access channel to the public boat ramp are addressed. DERM and the Co-ordinator General have indicated to me that this will occur and I thank them for that" he said.

Mr Cripps said he wanted Port Hinchinbrook to thrive as an important part of Cardwell's tourism industry and provide a much needed public boating facility to locals and visitors.

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