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## MEDIA RELEASE

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**Date: Tuesday 14 June 2011**

**For immediate release**

### **STATE BUDGET 2011 - TRANSPORT & MAIN ROADS**

#### **NO NEWS IS BAD NEWS FOR HINCHINBROOK ROADS**

Hinchinbrook MP, Andrew Cripps, says the state budget for the Department of Transport and Main Roads in his electorate was very disappointing, with no new projects announced and the disappearance of previous allocations from the new budget papers.

Mr Cripps said while allocations for some existing commitments, such as the upgrade of the Cardwell Range crossing were confirmed, there were no new road infrastructure announcements for the state controlled road network in the Hinchinbrook electorate.

"I acknowledge the second instalment of \$25 million in the 2011 – 2012 financial year of a total project cost of \$115 million of federal funding, for the previously announced upgrade of the northern section of the Cardwell Range on the Bruce Highway" said Mr Cripps.

"However, there are no new allocations in this budget for state controlled roads in my electorate. The only new monies in my electorate will be the \$4.5 million to be spent over two years on Mt Low Parkway, which is a council road, through the TIDS program" he said.

Mr Cripps said he was very concerned about the failure of a funding allocation from last years budget papers, for a new commercial fishing facility at Mourilyan Harbour, to be brought forward into the current budget, given the new facility had not been delivered.

"There was \$226,000 in last years' budget through the Far North Queensland Ports Corporation, for a new commercial facility at Mourilyan Harbour. It has not been delivered, but the allocation has disappeared from the budget papers. Where is it?" said Mr Cripps.

"I am very disappointed not to see funds in the budget for state controlled roads that have been a priority for me in the Hinchinbrook electorate, such as the Canecutter Way, south of Innisfail, or the Tully – Mission Beach Road, which needs to be resealed" he said.

Mr Cripps said another part of the Bruce Highway he felt strongly about was the section between Black River and Bluewater, north of Townsville, with planning for this section to be widened to four lanes needing to be a priority as the Northern Beaches continued to grow.

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