



**Andrew  
CRIPPS MP**  
Member for Hinchinbrook

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**For immediate release**

### **BLIGH LABOR BUDGET AN APPALLING FAILURE – CRIPPS**

Hinchinbrook MP, Andrew Cripps, has labelled the Bligh Labor Government's budget an appalling failure, increasing the state's debt, delivering another budget deficit, increasing the cost of living for families and increasing the cost of doing business in Queensland.

Mr Cripps said despite the Bligh Labor Government claiming revenues from the fire sale of state assets including railways, forests, ports and motorways, would be used to reduce Queensland's debt, the projected debt remained the same as it was before the fire sale.

"The Bligh Labor Government wants people to believe that all the state's financial problems were due to the natural disasters that occurred in Queensland earlier this year. In fact, the state's debt was already \$65 billion before the floods and Cyclone Yasi" said Mr Cripps.

"With these state assets gone, the Bligh Labor Government's debt is still projected to reach \$85 billion. Without the fire sale, the debt would have blown out to a whopping \$100 billion. This debt is massive and unprecedented. At some point, it has to be paid back" he said.

Mr Cripps said the Bligh Labor Government's claim that the abolition of the ambulance levy would reduce electricity bills – the political centrepiece of the budget - was hypocritical given it was the Beattie Labor Government that introduced the ambulance levy in the first place.

"Average electricity bills are still set to go up by \$118, or 6.6 per cent, next year, so the removal of the ambulance levy will be a very temporary benefit. The LNP strongly opposed the ambulance levy when it was introduced. We have now been vindicated" said Mr Cripps.

"Motor vehicle registration will increase by another 3 per cent next year, on top of a 24 per cent increase over the last three years. This comes on top of recent increases in drivers licence fees and the removal of the fuel tax rebate in 2009. It's disgraceful" he said.

Mr Cripps said one of the most appalling aspects of the Bligh Labor Government's budget was its decision to slug home buyers with an extra \$7,000 in transfer duty, which he feared would undermine an already fragile housing and property market in some areas of the state.

"The fact is the figures, commitments and initiatives in this budget can not be relied upon, because it does not take into account the impact of the Gillard Labor Government's carbon tax on Queensland's economy, which the Bligh Labor Government supports" said Mr Cripps.

**ENDS**