



MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

PLAN NEEDED TO SUPPORT MISSION BEACH AFTER DUNK DECISION

Hinchinbrook MP, Andrew Cripps, will work with the tourism industry at Mission Beach to develop a plan to deal with the fall out from the decision by the current owners not to rebuild its Dunk and Bedarra Island resorts after being seriously damaged by Cyclone Yasi.

Mr Cripps said the decision by the current owners, to put its Dunk and Bedarra Island resorts on the market or alternatively, seek an investment partner to contribute to the rebuild, had devastated not just tourism operators, but the whole Mission Beach community.

“Dunk Island is not only a tourism icon at Mission Beach; it’s a sentimental favourite of many local residents in the Cassowary Coast region. I will work with tourism operators at Mission Beach to develop a plan to support the industry during this difficult time” said Mr Cripps.

“I have requested a meeting with the Tourism Minister, Jan Jarrett and the Environment Minister, Vicki Darling, during parliamentary sittings this week, to discuss a range of options that may be able to be pursued to support tourism operators at Mission Beach” he said.

“If the current owners have taken a decision not to redevelop the resorts on Dunk and Bedarra Islands, then it is for the best that these properties are listed on the market, or tenders are called for an investment partner to rebuild, as soon as possible” said Mr Cripps.

“I visited Dunk Island after Cyclone Yasi. There is no doubt the resort on Dunk Island was very seriously damaged. Hopefully someone with a vision will grab this opportunity with both hands and restore the Dunk and Bedarra Island resorts to their former glory” he said.

Mr Cripps said he would be pursuing Minister Jarratt and Minister Darling to prioritise the rebuilding of infrastructure on the spit on Dunk Island and re-establish the walking tracks within the National Park area to facilitate day trip tourism and visits by local residents.

“Tourism operators and locals want and need the camping and picnic facilities and the bar and food outlet on the spit rebuilt and reopened as soon as possible. This will be my priority to support Mission Beach, both in terms of tourism jobs and our lifestyle” said Mr Cripps.

“The Cassowary Coast Regional Council has committed to rebuilding the Dunk Island jetty. With the jetty back in place and if we can get the public areas of Dunk Island operational again, it will give the resort the best chance of being successfully re-established” he said.

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