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## MEDIA RELEASE

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**For immediate release**

### **LABOR BLOWS MISSION BEACH BOAT HARBOUR OFF THE MAP**

Hinchinbrook MP, Andrew Cripps, has attacked the Bligh Labor Government for blowing something off the map at Mission Beach that Cyclone Yasi couldn't, after learning that DERM had unilaterally withdrawn the designation of the Clump Point Boat Harbour Reserve as a Marine Development Area (MDA) under the new Queensland Coastal Plan (QCP).

Mr Cripps said forward planning for enhanced marine facilities in Boat Bay at Mission Beach were formalised many years ago, with the former Johnstone Shire Council first requesting the State Government to establish the boat harbour reserve in 1984 and he was angry that DERM had made the decision without any consultation with the Mission Beach community.

"The draft QCP circulated for public consultation included the Clump Point reserve as an MDA. If the draft plan had proposed to remove the MDA, the community would have spoken up. I have written to several State Ministers objecting to this decision in the strongest possible terms and requesting the reinstatement of the MDA" said Mr Cripps.

"DERM has tried to justify its decision by stating that the future marine infrastructure needs of Mission Beach have not been demonstrated. This ignores the fact local boaties and tourism operators have for years expressed the view that the existing facilities are inadequate to accommodate the demand for safe and modern infrastructure" he said.

Mr Cripps said while DERM advised that it intended to undertake a planning study of the future marine infrastructure needs of the whole Cassowary Coast region, the reality was the withdrawal of Boat Bay's status as an MDA would significantly set back the progress of any application to establish new marine infrastructure and would certainly increase the costs.

"I can't believe the Bligh Labor Government has taken this decision after Mission Beach was so seriously impacted by Cyclone Yasi. Infrastructure projects will be very important to the economic recovery of business and tourism. The recent announcement about Dunk and Bedarra Islands has been another blow. This is another kick in the guts" said Mr Cripps.

"DERM's decision will significantly undermine business confidence at Mission Beach, where the tourism industry is a major economic driver. Mission Beach needs better marine facilities and the QCP needs to make provision for them. The extreme green agenda of the Bligh Labor Government has again hurt local communities in regional Queensland" he said.

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