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## MEDIA RELEASE

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**For immediate release**

### **LABOR NEEDS TO LISTEN ON HINCHINBROOK ROAD PROJECTS**

The Bligh Labor Government needs to ensure that it undertakes a proper consultation process in the Hinchinbrook electorate in relation to a number of proposed Main Roads projects to ensure these important infrastructure projects do not adversely impact on local communities, but can deliver better transport outcomes for road users in North Queensland.

Mr Cripps said he shared the concerns being expressed by many people in his electorate about the lack of information provided to local communities by Main Roads in relation to the restoration of the cyclone damaged Bruce Highway through Cardwell and the proposed heavy vehicle rest stops in Cardwell and Tully and that he was acting on these concerns.

“I have personally taken steps to have the heavy vehicle rest stop projects in Cardwell and Tully delayed until some public consultation can take place with the local communities involved. There is no doubt these rest stops are needed along our major transport routes, but in these two cases, they were proposed for very inappropriate locations” said Mr Cripps.

“In respect of the announcement by the State and Federal Labor Government’s last week about the reconstruction of the Bruce Highway and the foreshore through Cardwell, while I welcome the funding to restore these important public and community assets, there has been a real lack of information available to locals about the details of these project ” he said.

“The local community is concerned because the State Labor Minister for Main Roads, Craig Wallace, has said that planning and design work was underway on these projects, but no-one can tell the locals what that means. How much planning has been done and how much design work has been completed? The locals in Cardwell need to know” said Mr Cripps.

“How much more planning and design work will be done before Main Roads engages with the Cardwell community is consulted? If the wishes of the Cardwell community don’t meet up with the work that has already been done, will this be reviewed? Wouldn’t it have just been better for the Cardwell community to have been consulted from the word go?” he said.

Mr Cripps said while he recognised the NDRRA funding guidelines for these two projects only allowed for the restoration of existing infrastructure and could not be diverted for alternative proposals, it was very important the State and Federal Labor Governments consulted the local community to ensure its input influenced planning and design outcomes.

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