



**Andrew
CRIPPS MP**
Member for Hinchinbrook



for a new Queensland

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For immediate release

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Labor delusional on carbon tax hit on farming

THE Bligh government was delusional in its attempts to defend Labor's carbon tax impact on Queensland farming, the LNP said today.

LNP Shadow Minister for Agriculture Andrew Cripps said the Bligh government was happy to take all the benefits from agriculture – safe, fresh food, sustainable fibre production, jobs and massive export earnings – but would not stand up for farmers.

“It's a disgrace the way farmers and regional communities are treated by this long-term Labor government,” Mr Cripps said.

“The Bligh Labor government and Minister Mulherin are delusional that Queensland farmers will not suffer from Labor's carbon tax.

“Even the Bligh government's own Treasury modelling notes that farmers are price-takers with limited ability to pass on increased input costs because most farm products are traded on world markets and producers are essentially price-takers.”

Mr Cripps said Minister Mulherin liked to waffle on about agriculture being excluded, but in truth there would be higher input costs from electricity and transport – with an effective carbon price on use of transport fuels from 2012-13 through a reduction in fuel tax credits.

“This will impact farm transport and particularly road trains for livestock transport and grain.

“Another concern is abattoirs and meat processing – big users of electricity and transport fuel and in the case of abattoirs likely to feel real pressure from a carbon tax hit on methane emissions.”

Mr Cripps said Queensland farmers had an Agriculture Minister locked on cruise – keeping a seat warm while he waited to pick up his pension.

“This long-term Labor government wants all the benefits from farming, but refuses to back farmers because that doesn't sit with its deal with The Greens for preferences.

“The CanDo LNP team is committed to just voting one – no preference deals with anyone.”

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