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## MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

### KIRRAMA RANGE ROAD NEEDS FUNDS FROM ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

Hinchinbrook MP, Andrew Cripps, believes the restoration, repair and maintenance of the Kirrama Range Road in the Kennedy Valley north of Cardwell, should be funded by all three levels of government, federal, state and local, in recognition of its history, its regional significance to the tourism and cattle industry and the recreational use by local residents.

Mr Cripps said he had fought hard since being elected to get the State Labor Government to recognise that it had both a historical responsibility and a contemporary interest in the Kirrama Range Road, given that it previously benefited from decades of royalties from the timber industry and was now an important tourist road linking the coast to the hinterland.

"I had not previously been successful in getting the State Labor Government to acknowledge its interest, but this year \$471,000 has been allocated over the next two years by Main Roads for works on the Kirrama Range Road. This is not enough to address all of the issues associated with the road, but it is a small step in the right direction" said Mr Cripps.

"I believe DERM and DEEDI should make similar contributions, because the Kirrama Range Road provides access to the National Park facilities and walking tracks at Blancoe Falls and the road is a vital link for the cattle and tourism industries. If each department made a fair and reasonable contribution, we could address the major problems with the road" he said.

Mr Cripps said the Commonwealth Government should make a contribution to the repair and maintenance of the Kirrama Range Road, because it was the Federal Labor Government's decision to declare the area as World Heritage in the early 1990's that destroyed the timber industry, leading to the State Government neglecting its condition and its eventual closure.

"The Federal Labor Government insisted that new tourism jobs would replace lost timber jobs in North Queensland after World Heritage, but it has not supported the maintenance of the infrastructure needed for the tourism industry to sustain those jobs. The current Federal Labor Government must acknowledge this legacy and their responsibility" said Mr Cripps.

"The former Cardwell Shire and now the Cassowary Coast Regional Council have been left carrying the can, without any support from the State or Federal Governments. However, the CCRC should continue to contribute its fair share, in recognition of the strong interest of many local residents that use the Kirrama Range Road for recreational activities" he said.

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