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## MEDIA RELEASE

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**Date: Monday 3 October 2011**

**For immediate release**

### **BE AWARE OF DRAFT MASTER PLAN FOR NATIONAL PARKS**

Hinchinbrook MP, Andrew Cripps, has urged all North Queenslanders to be aware of the release of DERM's draft Master Plan for Protected Areas, including Nationals Parks, currently going through public consultation, with submissions closing on 20 November 2011.

Mr Cripps said with North Queensland having a high number of National Parks covering large areas of the region and with many popular recreational activities taking place in and near protected areas, local communities should take an interest in the draft master plan.

"North Queenslanders know I have long campaigned for more resources to be allocated to "bread and butter" environmental issues, like managing feral animals and pest weeds in National Parks and fought against the lock-out mentality of the State Labor Government and the extreme Greens regarding popular and legitimate recreational activities" said Mr Cripps.

"With the disgraceful experience the Herbert River district had with the declaration of the Halifax Bay Wetlands National Park and the difficulties we are having with the draft Islands National Park Management Plan, I particularly want the people of the Hinchinbrook electorate to have their say on this draft Master Plan for all National Parks" he said.

Mr Cripps said the LNP had recently announced a policy on Queensland's National Parks\* that made effective management a priority and concentrated on biodiversity, pest weed and feral animal management, to restore the reputation of National Parks as good neighbours.

"The LNP will also develop a streamlined permit system for sustainable tourism and recreational activities. The LNP understands that Queenslanders want our National Parks protected for the future and to be accessible for all Queenslanders to enjoy" said Mr Cripps.

"An LNP Government will refocus the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and DERM to deliver genuine environmental outcomes and through stakeholder consultation, deliver improved conservation and better access for both visitors and local communities" he said.

**\*See attached PDF document.      Draft Master Plan can be viewed at the following web address:**

**[http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/parks\\_and\\_forests/managing\\_parks\\_and\\_forests/management\\_plans\\_and\\_strategies/parks\\_master\\_plan.html](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/parks_and_forests/managing_parks_and_forests/management_plans_and_strategies/parks_master_plan.html)**

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