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For immediate release

Labor's sale of Kairi Research Station a 'disgrace'

THE Bligh Labor government's sale of agricultural research assets in Far North Queensland was a disgrace, the LNP said today.

LNP Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Food and Regional Queensland Andrew Cripps said Labor had sold most of the Kairi Research Station having earlier shut down and disbanded the station's research dairy herd.

"This is a disgraceful chapter in the history of this long-term Labor government's destruction of farm research and farm training in this state," Mr Cripps said.

"Labor has sold all but 26 hectares of the 209 hectares of the Kairi site – a prized parcel of land near Atherton that was home to world-leading tropical maize and pasture research and the world's only tropical dairy research herd.

"That's all been trashed by Labor with its run-down over many years of the once proud Department of Primary Industries and destruction of world-leading research facilities.

"Labor and its ineffective Minister will try and spin this as good for farm research, but the truth is they are responsible for a disgraceful sale of research station assets that were owned by the people of Queensland.

"The Kairi Research Station was established in 1911, and has been a centre for world-leading tropical crop and animal research. The profligate waste, debt and mismanagement of the Bligh Labor government have seen a raft of publicly-owned assets sold-off with no reduction of state debt that's fast approaching \$85 billion.

"Labor and Minister Mulherin stand condemned for their disgraceful maladministration and their sale of state assets that up till now have been held in trust for the betterment of our primary industries and their communities for generations.

"This latest betrayal of our primary industries by Anna Bligh and Labor should not be forgotten by the people of Queensland at the next state election."

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