



MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 2 November 2011

For immediate release

LNP TO GET COUNTRY RACING BACK ON TRACK

Hinchinbrook MP, Andrew Cripps, has welcomed the release of the LNP's Country Racing policy to rejuvenate country race meets and get rural and regional racing clubs back on track after 20 years of neglect and discrimination under Labor in Queensland.

Mr Cripps said country racing would get a new deal under a Newman LNP Government, with regional and rural thoroughbred racing being revitalized through the provision of an extra \$1 million per year to fund 20 additional country race meets in the bush.

"This initiative from the LNP is about recognising the enormous challenges the industry has struggled with in recent years, such as Equine Influenza and Hendra Virus and in places like the Hinchinbrook electorate, cyclone and flood damage" said Mr Cripps.

"Unfortunately, the worst of all has been the loss of many country race meets under Labor's city-focused racing policies. Through sensible policies and encouragement, the LNP will do its best to give country racing the bright future that it deserves" he said.

"Instead of Labor's ruthless cuts to country race dates that have seen rural and regional clubs struggle to hold race days, the LNP will encourage more meetings with more horses and trainers which in turn, should attract more people to these meets" said Mr Cripps.

"Without country racing, many young horses and jockeys would struggle to get a start. The LNP's \$1 million per year incentive plan is designed to support racing's grass roots. The likes of vets and rural supplies outlets would suffer without country racing: he said.

Mr Cripps said the LNP's policy also recognised that country race meets were a very important part of the social calendar for many rural and regional communities and there was a lot of history and tradition involved in a number of country race dates.

"In the Hinchinbrook electorate, the race meetings organized by the Herbert River Jockey Club and the Innisfail Turf Club are cornerstones of the community calendar. Sadly, under Labor, around 250 country race meets have been cut across the state" said Mr Cripps.

"The LNP is committed to country racing. Racing in Queensland would be poorer without the great race meets we have in rural and regional communities. While Labor is focused on racing in the city, the LNP is determined to giving country racing a fair go" he said.

Contact:	Andrew Cripps MP Member for Hinchinbrook	Address:	PO Box 1515 Ingham Qld 4850	Ph:	07 4776 1428
		E-mail:	Hinchinbrook@parliament.qld.gov.au	Fax:	07 4776 3503
