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## MEDIA RELEASE

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**For immediate release**

### **ELECTION ANTICS MORE LABOR POLITICAL SPIN**

Hinchinbrook MP, Andrew Cripps, has condemned the election-day announcement antics of Premier Anna Bligh as displaying an arrogant disregard for Queensland's local councils and proves that Labor will do and say anything during this campaign to hold on to power.

Mr Cripps said by announcing an election date of 24 March without dissolving the parliament and sending the government into caretaker mode until February 19, the Bligh Government would spend the next 25 days using taxpayers money to campaign for Labor.

"Everyone now knows there will be an election of 24 March. Labor Ministers will be making decisions with an eye on the election, rather than the best interests of Queenslanders. It is a clear manipulation of the situation by the Premier, designed to benefit Labor" said Mr Cripps.

"Local council elections are meant to occur on a fixed date every four years. By shoving the local council elections out of the way to suit Labor's political agenda, the Bligh Government has once again demonstrated that it has absolutely no respect for local government" he said.

"Local council elections were due on 31 March. We now have enormous uncertainty across the state. Local council elections will have to be put back until April or even early May. This will really cause problems for local councils in terms of budget preparations" said Mr Cripps.

"Thanks to Anna Bligh and Labor, we now have the prospect of new Mayors and Councillors, the ratepayers representatives, arriving and being expected to immediately participate in a budget process which would have commenced some time ago" he said.

Mr Cripps warned Queenslanders that Labor would mount a grubby and dishonest campaign against the LNP, to try and distract the public's attention away from the Bligh Government's long list of policy failures and disgraceful mismanagement of the state's finances.

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