



MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

PONTOON FUNDING CONFUSION AT BALGAL BEACH

Hinchinbrook MP, Andrew Cripps, says correspondence from Premier Anna Bligh and Treasurer Andrew Fraser contradicting each other has created unnecessary confusion about the replacement of the pontoon at the Fisherman's Landing Boat Ramp, at Balgal Beach.

Mr Cripps said the two letters, one to the Fisherman's Landing Fishing Club from Premier Bligh, advising the funds had been approved and the other to him from Treasurer Fraser advising that the matter had yet to be resolved, were embarrassing for the state government.

"In October last year, I wrote to Premier Bligh on behalf of the local community, supporting a Townsville City Council application for NDRRA funds to replace the pontoon at the Fisherman's Landing Boat Ramp, which was destroyed by Cyclone Yasi" said Mr Cripps.

"Unfortunately, the Premier never replied to my October letter. Instead, the Premier replied to other representations made in November 2011, via an email dated 16 December to the Fishing Club, advising the application had been approved, which was good news" he said.

"However, I did receive a strange response to my representations from the Treasurer dated 22 December 2011 (6 days after the Premier's email), advising that the matter had not yet been resolved. This was completely inconsistent with the Premier's reply" said Mr Cripps.

"You can imagine why I and others in the community were pretty confused. Thankfully, Mr Fraser's letter is not accurate and the funding for the replacement of the pontoon at Fisherman's Landing Boat Ramp appears to be safe, which is the important thing" he said.

Mr Cripps said he was pleased to support the Townsville City Council's application for disaster assistance to replace the pontoon at the Fisherman's Landing Boat Ramp and welcomed the successful outcome for keen boaties and fishers in the local community.

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