



MEDIA RELEASE

Date: Thursday 23 February 2012

For immediate release

LNP SUPPORTS HEALTH & BIOSECURITY IN THE TROPICS

Hinchinbrook MP, Andrew Cripps, says he is absolutely delighted with the announcement by the LNP yesterday, that North Queensland would become the focus of a new *Australian Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine* under a Newman LNP Government.

Mr Cripps said the commitment of up to \$42 million over four years would see the *Australian Institute for Tropical Health and Medicine* established in North Queensland, in conjunction with James Cook University, with facilities in Townsville, Cairns and the Torres Strait.

“This facility will strengthen Queensland’s tropical health and biosecurity capability. While Dengue Fever, Tuberculosis, Rabies and the Hendra virus present a health risk to all Queenslanders, they are a bigger threat to those living in the tropical north” said Mr Cripps.

“We need to deal with emerging infectious diseases before they become serious public health issues. There is always a lot of common ground between health and biosecurity. This is not only about health, but protecting our economy in sectors like agriculture” he said.

Mr Cripps said establishing the *Australian Institute for Tropical Health and Medicine* in North Queensland would mean research into the identification, prevention and treatment of tropical diseases and infections would be at the cutting edge and attract leading specialists.

“We are on the tropical health and biosecurity frontline, with its proximity to the Asia – Pacific region. There is always a significant risk in the vast, sparsely populated areas of North, Far North and North West Queensland, so this announcement is welcome” said Mr Cripps.

“The LNP understands the importance of protecting both Queenslanders and our agricultural sector from the threat of these tropical diseases. We are determined to be proactive in reducing the risks and increasing our preparedness, now and into the future” he said.

Mr Cripps said the *Australian Institute for Tropical Health and Medicine* will also provide training programs, particularly in disease surveillance and control and risk identification and help to build an integrated health security network focused on significant biosecurity threats.

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