



MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

LNP WILL AXE LABOR'S WASTE TAX

Shadow Environment Minister, Andrew Powell, travelled to North Queensland today to see first hand the impact of the Bligh Labor Government's waste levy on local industry and repeated the LNP's commitment to repealing the job destroying tax if elected on 24 March.

Hinchinbrook MP, Andrew Cripps and LNP Candidate for Mulgrave, Robyn Quick, welcomed Mr Powell to the Innisfail area, where they visited the Northern Iron and Brass Foundry at Wangan, an important manufacturing business and major employer in the district.

Mr Cripps said the Northern Iron and Brass Foundry employed about 100 people in the Innisfail district, supporting the livelihoods of many local families and that the local business was very important because it significantly diversified the economic base of region.

"I am delighted that my colleague, Andrew Powell, took this opportunity to come and see how Labor's waste tax will impact on manufacturing in North Queensland. Mr Powell has strongly supported jobs and stood up to the Bligh Labor Government on this issue" he said.

Mr Powell slammed the Bligh Labor Government for ignoring the negative impact of its \$35 per tonne waste tax on small businesses and the manufacturing industry across Queensland, which was driving up overhead costs and increased red tape and regulation.

"The LNP is committed to repealing Labor's waste tax if we are successful at the upcoming state election, because it is an inflexible and complex regulation that will result in perverse environmental outcomes and fails to encourage innovation in waste management" he said.

Mrs Quick said she was appalled to learn Labor's waste tax had driven up the Northern Iron and Brass Foundry's costs for responsibly disposing of waste from its operations by more than \$125,000, taking the foundry's total annual waste bill to more than \$200,000 a year.

"This waste tax is just another policy that Labor has introduced as part of its preference deal with the Greens. North Queensland industries have been targeted for increased compliance costs and regulations as a result of these Labor / Green preference deals" she said.

ENDS

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