



**Andrew
CRIPPS MP**
Member for Hinchinbrook

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LNP OUTLINES BRUCE HIGHWAY PLAN

Hinchinbrook MP, Andrew Cripps, says the LNP has thrown down the gauntlet to both state and federal Labor, unveiling a \$1 billion package of state road funding to fast-track projects on the Bruce Highway, proving it is the only party that is serious about fixing the problem.

Mr Cripps said the LNP's *Bruce Highway Action Plan* involved \$1 billion of state funding for the Bruce Highway to break Labor's ridiculous political foot-dragging, on the condition Canberra urgently brought forward funds to fix the vital national transport link within 10 years.

"The Bruce Highway forms the spine of the state's road network and is critical for the efficient, reliable and safe movement of people and freight. Labor has failed Queensland by not securing Federal Government funds for the upgrade of this critical link" said Mr Cripps.

"After 20 years in government, only now have Labor released a 20 year unfunded plan to fix it.

The Federal Government is normally responsible for funding upgrades to the Bruce Highway as part of the national road network, but the Bruce has been ignored for too long" he said.

Mr Cripps said the LNP would:

- Establish a *Bruce Highway Crisis Management Group* to campaign for more federal funds, including at the next federal election;
- Deliver an engineering based 10 year *Bruce Highway Crisis Action Plan*;
- Absolutely reject the Federal Labor Government's plan for tolls on the Bruce Highway.

"There is absolutely no doubt the Bruce Highway is approaching a state of crisis in terms of safety concerns and access constraints. The Bruce presents major problems for many of the communities on Queensland's east coast, particularly in North Queensland" said Mr Cripps.

"There are much needed works to be done on the Bruce Highway in North Queensland to provide improved flood immunity, especially in the Hinchinbrook electorate. Additional overtaking lanes, more rest areas and resealing projects are also required urgently" he said.

"Unlike the Bligh Labor Government, the LNP will take real action by allocating \$1 billion to the Bruce Highway, on the condition the Federal Government urgently brings forward expenditure over the next 10 years, rather than Labor's current unfunded 20 year plan" said Mr Cripps.

"It shouldn't be the State Government's job to fix the Bruce Highway, but in order to get the job done, an LNP will step in to help make it happen. We will have "shovel ready" projects prepared for the Bruce Highway, with safety and flood immunity as the priorities" he said

-ENDS-

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