



**Andrew  
CRIPPS MP**  
Member for Hinchinbrook



for a new Queensland

---

---

## MEDIA RELEASE

---

---

**Date: 15 March 2012**

**For immediate release**

### **LNP to deliver better workforce for agriculture**

The LNP will drive greater productivity and profitability in Queensland's agriculture and horticulture industries through a \$3.5 million workforce planning and training package to better meet industry needs for skilled workers.

Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Food and Regional Queensland, Andrew Cripps, said the \$3.5 million package over four years would be initially targeted at horticulture - the largest employer in the agriculture sector followed by a broader agriculture workforce plan.

"This investment will reverse the decimation of agriculture and horticulture education and training under the mismanagement of the Labor government," said Mr Cripps.

"The LNP will invest \$500,000 to develop a *Horticulture Workforce Plan* and \$3 million over three years to improve training in conjunction with industry, universities, training providers the *Australian Agricultural College Corporation* and schools."

"As part of our strategic plan for agriculture, we'll make workforce planning in horticulture a priority," said Mr Cripps.

"Horticulture is a major permanent, casual and seasonal employer in many local communities across Queensland. We'll review the 2008 *Horticulture Workforce Plan* with industry and set a new plan for the next three years."

Mr Cripps said the LNP would work with industry and trainers to overhaul career pathways to agriculture and improve the profile of graduate careers, school-based apprenticeships and traineeships. We will work with the industry and tertiary institutions to improve awareness and standing of agriculture training institutions - including agricultural colleges.

The LNP understands the need to revitalise frontline services and invest in science and technology. The LNP will restore agriculture as a standalone department with strong leadership and direction.

---

Contact:	Andrew Cripps MP Member for Hinchinbrook	Address:	PO Box 1515 Ingham Qld 4850	Ph:	07 4776 1428
	E-mail: <a href="mailto:Hinchinbrook@parliament.qld.gov.au">Hinchinbrook@parliament.qld.gov.au</a>		-	Web:	<a href="http://www.andrewcripps.com.au">www.andrewcripps.com.au</a>

---