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for a new Queensland

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LNP to rebuild agriculture and horticulture R&D

The LNP has pledged to help drive greater productivity and profitability in Queensland's agriculture and horticulture industries with a \$3 million commitment to research and development.

Andrew Cripps, Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Food and Regional Queensland, said the LNP will invest \$3 million over four years to build the LNP's Agriculture Strategy to commence rebuilding the research and development capacity of the new standalone department of agriculture in Queensland.

Research and development is critical for biosecurity, pest and disease resistance, crop yield and improved productivity and the overall future success of agriculture in Queensland.

"The LNP will make science and innovation a priority to deliver future sustainability and profitability of agriculture in Queensland, ensuring that it is supported through increased investment in applied scientific research and world leading innovation," he said.

"The Labor government has taken a massive toll on the capacity of the department to undertake any projects through the loss of physical assets, but more importantly, dedicated and skilled staff," Mr Cripps said.

"Support for agriculture and horticulture research and development has been slashed over the last decade which is jeopardising Queensland's ability to remain internationally competitive."

"The LNP will start rebuilding the new stand-alone department of agriculture to undertake R&D. We will reverse the shocking trend of scientists and researchers being forced out of the department. We understand the need to revitalise frontline services and invest in science and technology," said Mr Cripps.

"We will invest in research and development in agriculture including emerging horticulture industries, in particular by pursuing the huge potential for tropical agriculture as part of the sector's growth."

It is essential that research institutions in Queensland's north are supported with targeted research and development and an LNP government will set out to accomplish this.

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