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## MEDIA RELEASE

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**Date: Friday 16 March 2012**

**For immediate release**

### **FISHING HUTS SAFE UNDER LNP GOVERNMENT**

Hinchinbrook MP, Andrew Cripps, says the existing fishing huts and fishing areas in the Halifax Bay Wetlands National Park would be safe under a new LNP Government and that access and facilities would also be improved under the LNP's National Parks policy.

Mr Cripps said the decision to declare the Halifax Bay Wetlands National Park by the Bligh Labor Government, without any consultation with the local community, was questionable and he was concerned about the impact on locals pursuing recreational activities in the future.

"I do not believe the fishing huts, which have been there for decades, impact on the environment in the Palm, Orient, Cattle and Brackish Creek areas. Locals are aware of the importance of being environmentally responsible when camping and fishing" said Mr Cripps.

"The LNP believe that camping and fishing with friends and family is part of our lifestyle in North Queensland and will fight to defend this lifestyle. The LNP don't support policies that unreasonably restrict North Queenslanders from going camping and fishing" he said.

"The LNP has released a policy that is designed to encourage Queenslanders to access and use our National Parks. Our policy makes it clear the LNP is committed to ensuring our National Parks are properly managed and available to all Queenslanders" said Mr Cripps.

"The LNP agrees with the local community in North Queensland about the need to keep the Halifax Bay Wetlands National Park open for people to continue to pursue recreational activities, such as fishing and camping. We will deliver that outcome in government" he said.

Mr Cripps said the LNP would:

- Work with the Halifax Bay Recreation and Lifestyle Association and the Hinchinbrook Shire Council to secure and provide for the ongoing use of the existing fishing huts within the National Park.
- Allow for continued fishing in Palm Creek, Orient Creek, Cattle Creek, and Brackish Hole within the National Park.
- Provide improved access for vehicles and the establishment of recreational facilities such as camping grounds within the National Park.
- Increase efforts to control pest weeds and feral animals in the National Park.

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