



**Andrew
CRIPPS MP**
Member for Hinchinbrook



for a new Queensland

MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

Tests continue after Hendra virus detected in Ingham dog

Member for Hinchinbrook Andrew Cripps said he was monitoring the situation on a property near Ingham where a horse died from Hendra virus last week, after tests showed weak signs of the virus in a dog on the same property.

Mr Cripps said further tests were being conducted today on the dog and other animals on the property.

“Three out of four samples previously taken from the dog were negative for Hendra virus, but there will be more testing on the animal today to get a clearer picture.”

“I have again been in contact with the owners of the property near Ingham, and I have stressed to them that they have my full support and the full support of the Queensland Government in dealing with this issue,” Mr Cripps said.

“The property owners have been tested, and have been assessed as having low exposure by Queensland Health staff.”

“Five horses and a number of other animals remain on the Ingham property, where Biosecurity Queensland officers are continuing their monitoring and testing.”

“All other animals have returned negative results in the first round of sampling, and will remain isolated until testing has been completed.”

“The follow up testing for the horses and dog will be conducted at the Australian Animal Health Laboratory in Geelong.”

Biosecurity Queensland has confirmed that this is not the first time the virus has been naturally transmitted to a dog, but it is still important to ensure the spread is contained.

“Last week the Office of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry announced \$2 million in funding through the Open Funding Program as part of an overall \$12 million package under the National Hendra Virus Research Program,” Mr Cripps said.

“A number of research institutions, including James Cook University in North Queensland, will now have access to this funding to conduct research into the transmission of the Hendra virus.”

“I am confident that Biosecurity Queensland, the CSIRO and other research institutions will work tirelessly using funding from this Government to ensure the spread of Hendra virus is contained.”

[ENDS] 05 June 2012

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