



**Andrew  
CRIPPS MP**  
Member for Hinchinbrook



for a new Queensland

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Andrew Cripps welcomes tougher sentencing laws**

Hinchinbrook MP, Andrew Cripps, has welcomed the Newman LNP Government's tougher sentencing laws for child sex offenders and murderers.

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Jarrod Bleijie, announced that the Criminal Code will be amended to increase the penalties for these offenders.

Under the amended laws, murderers and child sex offenders will be jailed for life and unable to apply for parole for at least 20 years.

Mr Cripps said it was clear the new Government was delivering on its election commitment to get tough on serious crimes and serious offences.

"Crime is one of the biggest concerns for any community. This announcement will be welcomed in the Hinchinbrook electorate," Mr Cripps said.

"It is important that we work hard to keep the community safe. That's why I welcome the introduction of these tougher sentences for repeat child sex offenders and murderers.

Mr Cripps said there will also be an increase to the maximum penalty for the offence of a serious assault of a police officer.

Where the assault results in an injury amounting to bodily harm, where the offender bites or spits on an officer, or where the offender uses a weapon, the maximum sentence for the offender will increase from seven years to 14 years imprisonment.

"This announcement sends a clear message to those acting violently towards our police. We value our safety, therefore we value the safety of our police. Violence towards police will not be tolerated," Mr Cripps said.

"Our roads will also be safer with the announcement that drivers that evade police will face a minimum \$5000 fine and two-year driver license disqualification."

"This is about keeping dangerous drivers off our roads for the benefit of all road users."

"The Newman LNP Government want to make our local communities safer. I'm confident the Hinchinbrook electorate will be safer thanks to these tougher penalties."

**[ENDS] 20 June 2012**

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