



MEDIA RELEASE

Date: 21.06.12

For immediate release

Extension to clean up and recovery scheme a bonus for Hinchinbrook

Hinchinbrook MP, Andrew Cripps, said yesterday's announcement that the closing date for applications for recovery grant schemes has been extended will be a huge boost to people still struggling after Cyclone Yasi.

The Newman LNP Government announced a four-month extension to the closing date for recovery grants schemes introduced in response to the disasters of 2011 and 2012.

Mr Cripps said applications will now be accepted until October 31, 2012, instead of the original closing date at the end of June.

"This extension will be hugely beneficial to those primary producers and small business operators who are still trying to get back up on their feet," Mr Cripps said.

"My colleague, the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has done the Hinchinbrook community a great service in making this announcement.

The schemes provide grants of up to \$25,000 to eligible primary producers, small business and not-for-profit organisations to assist with clean up and recovery activities.

"Many producers and small business owners have made it quite clear to me as the local member, and to the Minister for Agriculture, that they haven't been able to complete essential recovery works because of ongoing wet conditions or an inability to secure contractors."

"Extending the closing date for applications is a clear sign the LNP Government is committed to ensuring the rebuilding and recovery process is a success."

These schemes are a 'Category C' measure under the joint Commonwealth State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA), introduced in response to the floods of early 2011 and Cyclone Yasi and the flooding in south west Queensland of early 2012.

The schemes to be extended to 31 October 2012 are the:

- Special Disaster Flood Assistance (November 2010 to January 2011) Scheme

Contact:	The Hon Andrew Cripps MP Member for Hinchinbrook	Address:	PO Box 1515 Ingham Qld 4850	Ph:	07 4776 1428
		E-mail:	Hinchinbrook@parliament.qld.gov.au	Fax:	07 4776 3503

- Special Disaster Floods (November 2010 to January 2011) Non-profit Organisations Assistance Scheme
- Special Disaster Tropical Cyclone Yasi Assistance Scheme
- Special Disaster Western Queensland Tropical Low 2012 Assistance Scheme

“Hinchinbrook was one of the hardest hit areas of the State during recent disasters – Cyclone Yasi has caused huge physical and economic damage to the region, which is why this announcement is so important,” Mr Cripps said.

The enhanced concessional loan scheme, which was introduced in 2011 to assist those businesses and producers which had suffered extreme damage, will close on 30 June, 2012.

Anyone looking to apply for this assistance should contact QRAA on 1800 623 946. More information is available on the QRAA website www.qraa.qld.gov.au.

[ENDS]

Media Contact: Paul Sutherland 3225 1781 // 0412 533 187