



**Andrew
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Member for Hinchinbrook



for a new Queensland

MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

Waste levy repeal to deliver savings to Hinchinbrook

Hinchinbrook MP Andrew Cripps said the Newman LNP Government's decision to repeal the waste levy would lead to cost of living savings for businesses and families in his electorate.

Mr Cripps said the State Government had honoured an election commitment when the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection, Andrew Powell, made the announcement yesterday.

"This waste levy was just another example of how out of touch the previous Labor Government was with Queenslanders," Mr Cripps said.

"The levy, which cost small businesses and councils \$35 per tonne, was driving up overhead costs and contributing to excessive red tape and regulation.

"It was just another policy introduced by Labor as part of its preference deal with the Greens. But this poorly managed tax resulted in perverse environmental outcomes and failed to encourage innovation in waste management.

"The removal of this shameful waste tax will help businesses and local councils lower their costs.

"We are focused on the need to cut the cost of living and cutting green tape, and this is another strong step towards improving the financial situation of families and businesses in my electorate.

Environment Minister, Andrew Powell, said he was working with his Department and the waste industry to establish a strategy that delivered good environmental outcomes.

"The Newman Government will not shy away from its responsibility to drive policy and regulation reform with regards to waste management, but we need to do this in consultation with industry," he said.

Mr Cripps said he had been calling for the scrapping of the waste strategy since its implementation late last year.

"The costs of this levy were unacceptable. The overhead costs of businesses in Hinchinbrook went up, which meant those costs were passed on to customers. Local councils also experienced increases in costs for their waste management, which could only have been bad news for ratepayers," he said.

"This is yet another promise kept by the Newman LNP Government, and we intend to continue to decrease the cost of living for Queenslanders."

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