



**Andrew
CRIPPS MP**
Member for Hinchinbrook



for a new Queensland

MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

KATTER & SWAN'S FALSE START AT MISSION BEACH

Hinchinbrook MP, Andrew Cripps, said the Federal Government's offer of \$5.5 million to the Queensland Government for a scoping study, reviews and more community consultation about providing a safe boat harbour at Mission Beach was a funding false start for this important project.

Mr Cripps said he was surprised to read media reports heralding the offer as a break through, given it only involved more meetings and paperwork about the long running issue at Mission Beach and made absolutely no commitment to providing capital funding to build a safe boat harbour facility.

"I'm concerned that Mr Katter and Mr Swan have portrayed this as funding for the construction of a safe boat harbour facility at Mission Beach. This is not the case. The Queensland Government has been offered funding to do a scoping study and public consultation on this issue," said Mr Cripps.

"This \$5.5 million is a long way short of the hundreds of millions Mr Katter claims is available for Cyclone Yasi projects as a result of his close relationship with Wayne Swan. Even the \$5.5 million would be good if it was available for construction of new infrastructure, but it's not," he said.

"The letter from the Commonwealth clearly says the State must do a scoping study and go through yet more public consultation about a safe boat harbour facility with the \$5.5 million on offer. If there is any left after that, only then can the remaining amount go towards any infrastructure project," said Mr Cripps.

"I'm amazed Wayne Swan has stated the funding will improve all weather boating facilities at Mission Beach and that for too long there has been too much talk about marine safety, when the money he has provided is not for construction, it's for more paperwork and meetings," he said.

Mr Cripps said he would do everything he could to ensure the funds were spent cost effectively and actually resulted in something useful for the Mission Beach community, which has endured several rounds of consultation and numerous studies about the need for a safe boat harbour facility.

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