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## MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

### FOCUS ON GREAT GREEN WAY TOURISM

Hinchinbrook MP, Andrew Cripps, has facilitated a forum of key tourism stakeholders along the Great Green Way in Tully today, to discuss the future challenges and opportunities for the industry in the region.

Mr Cripps said he was pleased that Assistant Minister for Tourism, Gavin King, was available to attend the forum and outline the Newman LNP Government's vision for tourism in North Queensland.

"Tourism is an important industry which supports many jobs and is a key part of the economy in many communities in the Hinchinbrook electorate," said Mr Cripps.

"We are fortunate to have many well established operators and businesses and are blessed with amazing natural attractions to underpin the strength of our tourism industry along the Great Green Way," he said.

"It is important that we are connected to our regional centres in Cairns and Townsville, but I have always felt the tourism industry in the Hinchinbrook electorate, particularly between Ingham and Innisfail, would benefit from closer co-operation between individual operators and businesses," he said.

"By facilitating this forum, I am seeking to facilitate this co-operation".

"We need to draw more visitors into the area between Townsville and Cairns for longer periods of time, making the Great Green Way a place where tourists stay overnight and make it the destination of their holidays, rather than just a stop-over to somewhere else," said Mr Cripps.

"As well as being the Assistant Minister for Tourism, Gavin King is the Member for Cairns, so he appreciates what the Great Green Way has to offer and why supporting tourism is important and I thank him for attending," he said.

"I hope this forum will result in stronger relationships between tourism businesses and operators in the Hinchinbrook electorate and along the Great Green Way, so that the industry comes back even stronger after Cyclone Yasi and grows into the future," said Mr Cripps.

**[ENDS]**

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