



**Andrew
CRIPPS MP**
Member for Hinchinbrook

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for a new Queensland

MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

Cripps welcomes the most important budget in a generation

Hinchinbrook MP, Andrew Cripps, has welcomed the delivery of the Newman LNP Government's first budget – the most important budget in a generation.

Mr Cripps said communities in the Hinchinbrook electorate would benefit significantly from initiatives in this year's budget, with a number of key projects receiving a funding boost.

"The aim of this budget is to keep the cost of living down, to reinvest in our schools, to improve our health services and to support people with disabilities," Mr Cripps said.

"The State's debt has reached unprecedented levels thanks to reckless spending by the previous Labor Government. Queensland is now in uncharted waters with respect to the volume of debt and the resultant interest bill.

"For that reason, this budget aims to restore our AAA credit rating.

"While we didn't create the mess that our State's finances are in presently, the Newman LNP Government will be working tirelessly to fix it. This budget will start that process."

Mr Cripps said the budget would enable North Queenslanders to enter the property market.

"The Newman Government has replaced the old first home owners grant with a new, bigger First Home Owner Construction Grant of \$15,000," he said.

"The new grant will be available to first home buyers who sign up to buy a newly constructed or off the plan house or apartment.

"The old first home owners grant had well and truly outlived its usefulness. It was simply adding \$7,000 to the price of a home. Many economists and many in the construction industry had called for it to be removed and replaced. We have listened and acted, and now our grant is the most generous in Australia.

"People in my electorate are now well placed to buy their own home. This is great news for the development of Hinchinbrook."

Mr Cripps said this announcement comes on top of cost savings measures already introduced by the Newman LNP Government.

“We have already delivered some key savings to Queenslanders’ hip pockets,” he said.

“We have frozen car registration for three years and frozen the standard electricity tariff for 12 months.”

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