



Speech by

**Andrew Cripps**

**MEMBER FOR HINCHINBROOK**

Hansard Tuesday, 25 October 2011

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## **LIBERAL NATIONAL PARTY, AGRICULTURE STRATEGY**

 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (11.31 am): On Friday, 16 September 2011 the leader of the LNP, Campbell Newman, and I launched the LNP's new strategy for agriculture in Queensland. The strategy sets an ambitious target to double our agricultural production by 2040. The LNP's plan is focused on increasing agricultural production—not regulation, not compliance but production. I am pleased today to table a copy of *The CanDo LNP agriculture strategy—Queensland food and fibre: Feeding the new world—a 2040 vision for Queensland agriculture*.

*Tabled paper:* Report titled 'The CanDo LNP agriculture strategy—Queensland food and fibre: feeding the new world—a 2040 vision for Queensland agriculture' [\[5691\]](#).

The objectives of this strategy are: to provide a long-term and respected future for farming in Queensland; to improve job opportunities and quality of life for Queenslanders working in rural communities, particularly those on the land; to support ongoing investment in our agricultural sector; to ensure the agricultural sector in Queensland remains globally competitive; and to harness science to keep agricultural industries at the forefront of production methods and resilient from disease, disaster and unforeseen events.

The LNP has identified six areas to achieve this goal. The LNP will, firstly, re-establish a stand-alone department of agriculture to drive this strategy. This stand-alone agriculture department will be directed to engage and work cooperatively with farmers to achieve outcomes, rather than focus on bureaucracy and red tape. The six priority areas in our strategic plan are: facilitating new infrastructure; improving skills and career pathways; research, development and extension; protecting strategic cropping land; enhancing biosecurity; and fighting Labor's destructive carbon tax.

The LNP will support new water infrastructure to enhance existing and encourage new agricultural production, including the Connors River Dam, the Nathan Dam and the Water for Bowen projects. The LNP will also support improved transport infrastructure, including road, rail and port infrastructure, to facilitate moving agricultural products for value adding and to domestic and export markets. The LNP will promote agricultural science, agricultural economics and biosciences as pathways for young people to pursue careers in agriculture. The LNP wants to improve the profile of graduate careers, school based apprenticeships and traineeships in agriculture. This will involve close partnerships with universities, agricultural colleges, private training providers and schools.

The LNP will work with industry, existing institutions and universities to identify RD&E priorities to improve productivity, support the sector's ability to address emerging challenges and capitalise on new market and export opportunities. The LNP will develop long-term funding sources for agricultural RD&E as part of our commitment to science and innovation focused on productivity. The LNP will identify and protect strategic cropping land under an improved system of statutory regional plans which will involve extensive community and industry input. The LNP will not allow new open-cut mines on SCL or underground mining, coal seam gas or other resource projects on SCL if it is likely to have a significant adverse impact on the productive capacity of that land.

The LNP will ensure Biosecurity Queensland is adequately resourced to undertake its prevention, emergency response and detection responsibilities, and the LNP will continue to oppose Labor's destructive carbon tax, which will drive up the cost of farm inputs and erode our competitive advantage against imported products. As the shadow minister for agriculture, food and regional Queensland, I am proud that the LNP is promoting and supporting agriculture.

The LNP agriculture strategy sets out our vision and priorities for agriculture in Queensland over the next 30 years. Since the launch of the LNP's strategic plan for agriculture, I have welcomed the support and encouragement of Queensland's peak agricultural industry bodies. I table media releases issued by the Queensland Farmers Federation, AgForce, Growcom and Canegrowers all welcoming the LNP's strategic plan for agriculture.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of media releases by Queensland Farmers Federation, AgForce Queensland, Growcom and Canegrowers Queensland relating to the LNP agriculture strategy [\[5692\]](#).

The LNP looks forward to implementing the planks of its strategic plan in partnership with all sectors of Queensland's agricultural industry. Importantly, it establishes the framework for more detailed policies and initiatives. The LNP has also received much valuable and welcome feedback—which we invited at the launch of our strategic plan—from many sources, including individual farmers, academics in the field of agriculture, agricultural scientists working in industry and indeed public servants who were once proud to work for the former department of primary industries and who are desperate for their work to be recognised and valued. The ideas in this strategy will align with plans for each of the state's other key economic drivers. Together with agriculture, they form the four pillars of Queensland's economy.