



**ROB MESSENGER MP MEMBER FOR BURNETT  
SHADOW MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT & HERITAGE**

# Your Messenger

SEPTEMBER 2006

## Prime Childers land to be transferred to sugar industry

**State forest plantation land north of Childers would be made available for sugar cane production if a Queensland Coalition Government is elected.**

Shadow Primary Industries Minister Mike Horan and Member for Burnett Rob Messenger made the announcement recently during a meeting with Isis district cane growers.

Mr Messenger said a Queensland Coalition government would overturn the Beattie Labor Government's decision to set aside the land for a forest plantation and would instead make 750 hectares of the land available to the local sugar industry.

"The Queensland Coalition knows the importance of the sugar cane industry to the growth and economy of Queensland and is committed to the Isis sugar industry," Mr Messenger said.

"It is important to ensure the viability of our local cane

industry and the Queensland Coalition's pledge will be of direct benefit to the local community, where it has been estimated the direct economic injection to the community is likely to be around the \$4 million mark. "These local cane farmers don't need anymore bad news... We need to help our local cane farmers out and boost local morale, particularly in light of the latest cane smut crisis," he said.

Mr Messenger said the Queensland Coalition recognises the need for increased forest plantations to meet growing demand for timber, but stressed there were many other suitable locations to expand the state's plantation estate.

"This land in particular is ideal for sugar cane production. The infrastructure is right there and readily available for the production of cane in the vicinity," Mr Messenger said.



**MIKE HORAN**

**Shadow Primary Industries & Fisheries Minister**

## Wide Bay marine park plan to be overhauled

**During a visit to the Bundaberg/Burnett region, Mr Horan announced a Queensland Coalition Government would overhaul the Great Sandy Marine Park zoning plan to ensure the plan had broad community support and community ownership.**

Mr Horan said the current zoning plan was "flawed" and had upset many local residents and business people who felt their views had not been properly considered by the Beattie Labor Government.

"The park supports a diverse range of activities such as fishing, whale watching and turtle nesting, so it is vital the area is managed properly and the management plan has community support."

Mr Horan said the Beattie Labor Government disbanded a working group which included a broad cross-section of local community representatives and left it to Brisbane-based bureaucrats to make the final decisions on the marine park.

"There are many elements of this divisive zoning plan which have upset locals, such as the closure of popular fishing spots around Bargara, and a new one hook, one line rule for recreational fishers which appears to have no scientific backing," he said.

"A Queensland Coalition Government would throw Labor's divisive plan overboard and form a new working group of local representatives who would be tasked with developing a new Great Sandy Marine Park zoning plan that has broad community support.

"It is important that all the different stakeholders get together to develop a plan that provides an appropriate balance between protecting the environment and ensuring this wonderful marine park can still be used and enjoyed by locals and visitors now and into the future."

Mr Horan said the Coalition recognised hundreds of local residents had already

submitted their views on the marine park, while industry groups had also already done a significant amount of work.

"We don't want to reinvent the wheel. The Coalition recognises this marine park plan has been going around in circles for years and a zoning plan can't be put off forever," he said.

"In consultation with the working group, a Coalition Government would aim to revise the current plan and introduce a new plan that has community ownership and support within six months of being elected.

"And unlike Labor, which has offered no compensation to commercial fishers affected by marine park zones, a Coalition Government would develop an assistance scheme for the commercial fishing industry to offset any adverse impacts and potential loss of fishing rights that may occur when the marine park zoning plan is finalised."



## STRONGER THAN EVER UNITED COALITION

Leader of the Queensland Coalition Lawrence Springborg and Deputy Leader Dr Bruce Flegg flew to Bundaberg recently to announce a new state-of-the-art replacement hospital for our community.

Pictured from left to right are Nationals Candidate for Bundaberg Jack Dempsey, Lawrence Springborg, Dr Bruce Flegg and Member for Burnett Rob Messenger during a Media Conference outside the Bundaberg Base Hospital.

## \$30m promise to connect Burnett farmers to surface water

### Approximately 200 Burnett farmers would benefit from a Queensland Coalition Government's \$30 million pipeline proposal to connect farmers to surface water.

The Shadow Minister for Natural Resources Jeff Seeney recently reiterated a long-term commitment to connect canefarmers in the Gooburrum and Woongarra regions to surface water as they currently rely entirely on the underground aquifer to supply their farms with water.

Mr Messenger said these farmers desperately

need surface water as currently the underground water the farmers are forced to use is turning saline and being poisoned with potassium.

"That water is turning saline and is being poisoned because of the intrusion of sea water and the pressure being placed on that underground aquifer by the 200-odd irrigators," he said.

Mr Messenger said these local irrigators are not able to access the surface water, which the majority of farmers in the Burnett-Bundaberg

area enjoy, because there is no surface water infrastructure in place.

"There are no pipes or engineering works in place to allow surface water to flow.

"The solution is of course to put in place the necessary surface water infrastructure, which is what the state government have so far refused to do."

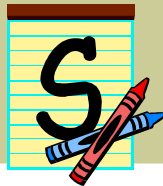
## Education—the QLD Coalition way

Improving school standards, providing full-time teacher aides for Prep Year students and improving classroom behaviour are among the key planks of a wide ranging Education Policy launched by the Queensland Coalition.

The Queensland Coalition believes the best investment in the future was a solid education with a focus on getting the basics right and ensuring stronger discipline in the classroom.

### The Coalition's comprehensive Education Policy includes:

- Full-time teacher aides for Prep Year students at a cost of \$20 million in the first year and \$40 million a year in subsequent years;
- A new Teacher Protection Act to protect teachers when they are maintaining discipline in the classrooms;
- The establishment of a new Education Assessment Authority charged with improving school literacy and numeracy standards, with \$20 million to assist schools who fall behind meet the appropriate standards within 12 months;
- Simplified reporting system to parents and a review of the curriculum to ensure it is concise, realistic, achievable and measurable;



- Alternative education sites for students with behaviour management problems;
- Increased funding to non-state schools to preserve diversity and choice for parents and students;
- Boosting Special Education services for students with learning difficulties;
- Expanding the 'Reading Recovery' program with a renewed emphasis on the role of phonics;
- A commitment to continue funding the installation of air-conditioning in Queensland state schools until it is fitted in every school
- The 'Healthy Kids, Clever Kids' program establishing mandatory physical activity for all students;
- \$2 million to educate children about the dangers of drugs;
- \$3 million for school chaplains and a commitment to preserving the status quo in religious education in state schools; and
- A 'Pride in Nation' initiative to foster a greater appreciation of Australian History and what it means to be Australian.

### Rob's Message:

*I would like to thank those who have filled out and returned the "Have your say" section of the last edition of 'Your Messenger'. Your suggestions and comments will help me to gauge what is important to you in our electorate and will go a long way to help me help you! So keep your suggestions coming!*

*I would like to again take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support during the past 2 and a half years.*

*Should I be re-elected you have my assurance that I will continue to vigorously represent the interests of the people in this electorate as I have done during the past term.*

*Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like assistance or require further information on Queensland Coalition policies.*

# VOTE I

## ROB MESSENGER

"Getting the priorities right for Burnett"

HOW TO VOTE  
**ROB MESSENGER**  
National for Burnett

Vote National

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>MESSENGER, Rob</b> (The Nationals)
<input type="checkbox"/>	WILLIAMS, Denise (Australian Labor Party)

THE NATIONALS  
QUEENSLAND COALITION

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Rob is on the web! Visit [www.robmessenger.com](http://www.robmessenger.com) for all the latest news & information

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