



JOINT MEDIA RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 28/07/2015

Reef Catchments launches new Australian Government National Landcare Programme (NLP)

The Mackay Whitsunday region is set to benefit from a new round of funding available through the Australian Government National Landcare Programme (NLP).

From 27 July, Reef Catchments will provide NLP funding opportunity to local Landcare and community groups across the region, including Rural Fire Brigades and Traditional Owners.

Reef Catchments CEO, Robert Cocco, said grants of between \$2,000 and \$15,000 would be available for regional groups to undertake activities that addressed key Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES), with a focus on inland and coastal areas.

A total of \$135,000 will be offered regionally by Reef Catchments, via the *Looking After Local Landscapes* program.

“We are thrilled to offer this new opportunity to the Mackay Whitsunday region, made available through the Australian Government’s new National Landcare Program,” Mr Cocco said.

“From 27th July, Landcare and other local community groups can apply for a new round of funding for projects that meet select criteria aligned with Matters of National Significance (MNES), as well as projects that complement current natural resource management activities.

“The *Looking After Local Landscapes* program will allow groups to work within their own landscape to connect with the needs and priorities that are unique to the Mackay Whitsunday region and community. We want to build capacity on-ground to deliver the best possible outcomes for natural resource management at a local level now and into the future.”

Key groups identified to deliver conservation intervention actions include: regional Landcare groups, rural fire brigades, Traditional Owner groups, local government and landholders in high priority geographic areas.

“We are lucky enough to live in one of the most celebrated and beautiful regions in the world, adjacent to the iconic Great Barrier Reef. This funding helps ensure we can continue to address local issues that connect land and water for a healthier landscape long-term,” Mr Cocco said.

“Reef Catchments is encouraging current project delivery partners and stakeholders to contact us to see if they are eligible to for this new funding opportunity, which builds on the excellent natural resource management work being done across our region currently.”

Federal Member for Dawson, George Christensen MP said the announcement was good news for the community.

“Reef Catchments have a very strong track record of performing practical work to make real improvements in the environment. The Reef Catchments approach of working with industry and

implementing hands-on programs continues to deliver tangible results for both our land and our reef,” he said.

The new round of funding will open 27 July 2015 and close 18th September 2015. Successful projects will be formally announced 1st October.

The National Landcare Programme is a key part of the Australian Government’s \$2 billion investment over four years to manage natural resources. The other elements of this investment include the Reef 2050 Plan, The Green Army Programme, Working on Country, and the Land Sector Package.

Examples of potential eligible projects and activities in the Mackay Whitsunday region include:

- **Inland Fire Management:** Mapping and extension support to develop annual fire management plans specific and scaled to the region in high priority inland areas.
- **Coastal Management:** On-ground activities relevant to MNES in priority areas, which may include weed control, revegetation, debris removal, public access management and management planning.
- **Island Management:** Activities and outputs will be delivered in partnership with key island managers and stakeholders, focused on targeting key threats impacting Nationally Significant species and ecological communities.

To find out if you are eligible to apply for funding please contact Reef Catchments:

P (07) 4968 4200 | **E** info@reefcatchments.com

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IMAGES: Looking After Local Landscapes funding is now available for select activities in priority areas across the region.

Pictured (IMG1) Reef Catchments’ Iona Fleet and Carlos Bueno from Whitsunday Catchment Landcare.

Pictured (IMG2) Nicholas Perna, Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ) member Mount Blackwood, and Jake Betros, Catchment Solutions. *Credit Fiona Hollingworth Photography.*