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## Quoll project opens in North Queensland

The Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland (Wildlife Queensland) congratulates the Townsville City Council and Burdekin Dry Tropics Natural Resource Management Group on supporting the establishment of the Quoll Seekers Network in Townsville – the network's first venture into North Queensland.

'The QSN is an excellent opportunity for the community to be part of an exciting hands-on project monitoring one of our fascinating lesser known animals,' said Christine Pfitzner, Wildlife Queensland's community project coordinator.

Wildlife Queensland coordinates the Quoll Seekers Network (QSN), which aims to raise community awareness of quolls in Queensland and to help people enjoy living alongside quolls.

Within the last 12 months QSN has been working hard to alert people in southern Queensland to threats to local quoll populations.

'It is encouraging to see the QSN expanding its activities into other regions of Queensland,' said Ms Pfitzner.

'We hope the North Queensland chapter of QSN will raise local interest in quolls and their habitat.'

'QSN has had such an enthusiastic response from people in southern Queensland,' she added.

QSN supporters have been able to demonstrate that spotted-tailed quoll populations are still active around Logan, south of Brisbane, despite being considered locally extinct.

The QSN also recently carried out survey work on quoll populations in Main Range and promoted the use of quoll-proof chicken pens to reduce confrontations between property owners and quolls.

Two species of quolls may be found in North Queensland: the northern quoll and the spotted-tailed quoll. The northern quoll is restricted to northern parts of Australia. This quoll is considered endangered.

The larger spotted-tailed quoll is Australia's largest native marsupial carnivore. The spotted-tailed quoll is much less often seen in North Queensland and is endangered nationally.

The spotted-tailed quoll is the largest climbing marsupial predator in the world.

Image caption: The endangered northern quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*) is a fascinating native predator. Photo courtesy Dr Scott Burnett/Bruce Thomson

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