

6 October 2010

## NQ Dry Tropics welcomes on board ...

Environmental impact and land management issues in central Queensland will be better represented thanks to a new addition to the local natural resource management group, NQ Dry Tropics.

Grazier Bruce Cobb has been appointed to the NQ Dry Tropics board to represent the Belyando Suttor region.

Bruce and his wife Samantha own a property called Mellaluka, 150 kilometres north west of Clermont. He is particularly interested in the development of mining in the area and how it will influence grazing and the community.

The Cobbs have faced challenging land management issues of their own, particularly when 12,000 hectares of Mellaluka went underwater for an extended period, damaging grass cover.

They have since focused on weed control and recovering ground cover as much as possible. Bruce has also worked on cattle properties overseas.

Accountant Barry Tognola has also joined NQ Dry Tropics' board of directors. Barry has spent over 42 years in the finance sector.

He has been the Chief Executive of the Townsville office of a national financial firm for six years. His field of expertise is rural and commercial family businesses.

NQ Dry Tropics Chairman Mark Stoneman said, "These two appointments continue to broaden the expertise and skills base on the board while maintaining a good geographical spread across the diverse NQ Dry Tropics region.

"Bruce Cobb comes from a family with a long history of management knowledge across northern and western Queensland." Mark said.

"He has been educated within the distance education system and understands the demands facing isolated families as they accept the responsibilities of balancing economic and environmental stewardship."

Barry Tognola has had a long association with people right across the region as accountant and advisor to people.

Mark said, "His professional knowledge and understanding of rural and urban businesses provides a vital perspective and skill that is a prerequisite of success for any company."

NQ Dry Tropics' nine board of directors are representatives from the grazing, farming, Traditional Owner, local government, education and community sectors.

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Our region includes the local government areas of Townsville, Charters Towers, Burdekin, Isaac, Barcaldine, Etheridge, Hinchinbrook, Palm Island and the Whitsundays.

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