



Media Release



April 21, 2010

A healthy Earth starts in your own backyard

Earth Day - April 22

An overwhelming number of people living on Townsville's fringes have asked for help to manage their blocks.

Local natural resource management body NQ Dry Tropics commonly funds improvements on rural properties; this is the first time it's investing in semi-rural areas.

Alligator Creek and Nome residents will meet with NQ Dry Tropics on Earth Day to talk about how they can get up to \$2,800 a year to improve native habitat through the NQ Dry Tropics' Healthy Habitat initiative.

NQ Dry Tropics Community Support and Engagement Facilitator Paul Wuth said Healthy Habitats was designed to help create healthy native habitat for people and animals in two of Townsville's semi-rural communities.

"A healthy environment starts in our own backyards," he said.

"We've had a great response to surveys we've run in the semi-rural areas and people are really keen for more information and help to manage their blocks.

We'll be working to help residents reduce their environmental footprint by getting rid of backyard weeds and pests, enhancing native vegetation, and developing property management plans to improve the long-term health of people's homes and backyards.

"Healthy Habitats recognises the role everyone has to play in creating a sustainable future for our region." Paul said.

Program participants will benefit from access to expert advice, a range of hands on workshops and community support networks.

Participants may also be able to apply for funding to support on-ground works such as weed removal, revegetation, landscaping with native plants and fire management.

All residents of Alligator Creek, Nome and Black River are invited to participate in the program. For more information contact Paul Wuth at NQ Dry Tropics on (07) 4724 3544.

An information and registration night about Healthy Habitats will be held in Alligator Creek on Earth Day, Thursday, April 22, 6:00-7:00 pm at the Alligator Creek Bowls Club. RSVP to the above contact is appreciated.

This project is supported by NQ Dry Tropics, through funding from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country.

Media photo opportunity:

**April 21, Wednesday 9 am
Lot 1, 54 Bentley Dr. Nome, 20 min south of Townsville**

Meet a local resident on an Alligator Creek property and NQ Dry Tropics staff member to hear both perspectives on the project.

The resident is a wildlife carer. Native animals will be available for vision.

Media contact

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