



Media Release

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Plans are still a puzzle for landholders

Graziers are still confused about new Queensland Government reef protection legislation.

Over 500 landholders in our region attended information days throughout north Queensland explaining the new environment plans they need to do.

By September this year all graziers on properties over 2,000 hectares in the Burdekin Dry Tropics natural resource management region have to complete an Environment Risk Management Plan.

This is because the Queensland Government wants to reduce sediment runoff. It also wants to reduce the amount of fertilisers and chemicals running off into the Great Barrier Reef by 50 per cent by 2013.

During the last two months NQ Dry Tropics has been presenting at information days organised by Agforce to help graziers understand the new Plans.

The Plans require graziers to keep detailed records about the amount of groundcover they have, where watering points are and a basic description of how the land is managed. Graziers may have to report this information annually to the Queensland Government.

Photos of monitoring sites might also have to be submitted each year. Graziers must also meet performance achievement targets they've set.

If graziers don't do a plan by September they risk attracting fines.

NQ Dry Tropics addressed graziers at eight workshops from Greenvale and Collinsville to Alpha.

Many of the landholders we spoke with are still upset about having to do the plans. They are confused about why they have to do them and what they have to do to comply with the Queensland Government's reef protection package. Many are wondering how the plans will be assessed.

Over 600 graziers in the Burdekin Dry Tropics are required to complete an Environment Risk Management Plan.

Media contact

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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. Website: www.nqdrytropics.com.au

