

# Media Release



August 10, 2010

## Money to improve farms

Want to make a positive change in the way you farm, but can't afford it? You can now.

Over \$3 million dollars of Reef Rescue funding is available to farmers in north Queensland to make environmental improvements to their farm.

Round three of Reef Rescue is now open for sugar and horticulture farmers.

Reef Rescue has been hailed as the Australian Government's most successful environmental initiative. The funding improves the quality of water going into the Great Barrier Reef.

NQ Dry Tropics Ian Dight says Reef Rescue encourages farmers to go from good to best practice.

He says, "We're interested to hear from primary producers who want to do projects that will make a difference to the amount of fertiliser they use and reduce pesticide losses to rivers and creeks."

Over 230 farmers in the Burdekin Dry Tropics are using Reef Rescue funds to pay for changes. One farmer is using the backyard method of composting to replace fertilisers; others are modifying machinery and finding unusual ways of killing weeds.

In the previous round of funding \$3.5 million dollars was allocated to farmers in north Queensland. It's improving 170,000 hectares of horticulture, sugar cane and grazing land.

Recipients have to match funds dollar for dollar. Reef Rescue is part of the Australian Government's \$2.2 billion Caring for our Country. Natural resource management body NQ Dry Tropics makes funding available for horticulture and sugarcane farmers from Bowen to Crystal Creek.

Farmers who haven't applied for Reef Rescue are strongly encouraged to apply this round.

Unsuccessful applications from previous funding rounds will be accepted but they're advised to contact NQ Dry Tropics to check their eligibility.

Interested farmers can call NQ Dry Tropics on 07 4724 3544 for more information or email [reefrescue@nqdrytropics.com.au](mailto:reefrescue@nqdrytropics.com.au). Applications for cane farmers close September 6 while horticulture closes September 30.

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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.

### Media contact

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Image available on request.