



# Media release

12 May 2011

## **NQ Dry Tropics Board to discuss 'Yasi' and coal basin impacts in Cardwell**

The Board and senior executive of the NQ Dry Tropics travel to the disaster recovering town of Cardwell for the May meeting of the Company.

Company Chair, Mark Stoneman, said the meeting was seen as an important opportunity to meet with locals following the devastating Yasi cyclone and following floods.

"The town and district, while not being in our specific regional area, has suffered enormously and we seek to join with our neighbouring natural resource management body, Terrain, as well as community leaders in assessing both the emotional as well as physical impacts of these unprecedented events." Mr Stoneman said.

"Joining the Board's meet-and-greet activities will be the Mayors of both the Cassowary Coast and Hinchinbrook Shires as well as State Canegrower leader, Alf Cristaudo, along with local commerce, industry and Traditional Owner representatives, one of whom – Phil Rist – is a Board Member of the NQ Dry Tropics."

Mr Stoneman said that learning about the local impacts experienced by the community and the damage to natural resources will better prepare the company in the event of any such disaster within the wider dry tropics area over and above that already experienced.

"The land to the west of Cardwell does fall within our region and staff have been involved in assessing damage as well as the needs of locals in recovery – this visit will enhance our capacity to assist."

Mr Stoneman said the meeting would also be considering how it might support primary producers and others with the Bowen & Galilee Basin's planned coal and transport corridors.

"While these developments are enormously important to the local, State and National economies, the disruption to production and management of the landscape affected will require a diverse range of skills and a huge balancing act.

"We believe our recently developed Strategic Plan provides a background and base to use the skills of our people to support land owners and the coal companies during the coming decade as part of ensuring the best outcomes are achieved for the landscape, primary producers, the regional communities and the mining companies."

NQ Dry Tropics, the regional natural resource management body covers some eight percent of the State including the entire Burdekin River catchment and dry tropical regions. Its major centres are Townsville, Charters Towers, the Lower Burdekin and Bowen but extends to south of Alpha in Central Queensland and west to the Dividing Range.

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