



Media release

16 June 2011

Yasi environment repairs begin

Rehabilitation of Townsville's river and beach areas damaged by Cyclone Yasi has started.

Sites along Ross River and Ross Creek suffered major damage to canopies from fallen trees and broken branches resulting in an invasion of weeds.

It will take a lot of time and effort to restore these sites to their previous conditions.

Natural resource management group NQ Dry Tropics is starting to help community groups like Coastal Dry Tropics Landcare to restore areas like this that were severely damaged by Cyclone Yasi, by providing grants of up to \$10,000 to assist environmental recovery projects.

In recognition of the impacts of Cyclone Yasi on natural resources and communities, the Australian Government provided funding for environmental recovery projects under its Caring for our Country initiative.

NQ Dry Tropics is administering and coordinating this funding.

Toomulla Coastcare will receive money to remove weeds and revegetate sand dunes. Bluewater Landcare will receive money to repair extensive damage to Bluewater Creek waterhole, a popular recreational area for both visitors and locals.

Funding has also been allocated to Olympus Crescent Coastcare on Magnetic Island so that it can control weeds that have infested an area in Alma Bay that experienced soil disturbance and canopy destruction.

The group is also removing building materials and other rubbish that was washed into the area which is smothering native vegetation and preventing natural recovery.

NQ Dry Tropics' Mark Tartelin says, "Community groups make a valuable contribution in the protection and conservation of coastal environments in our region.

"It's great to see the community willing to put in the hours needed to repair damage caused by the Cyclone in February. Without this work landscapes can change significantly. It really is a case of partnering with the community to repair and restore the natural assets in our own backyards."

Volunteer labour is also available to groups who want to restore rivers, creeks and beaches thanks to Conservation Volunteers Australia.

NQ Dry Tropics is funding seven community groups to help them restore areas damaged by the Cyclone. For more information about the recovery funds call Mark Tartelin on 4722 5747.

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

Media contact Kathy Cogo 4722 5730 or 0438 163 232. Email kathy.cogo@nqdrytropics.com.au

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