



Media alert

2 June 2011

There's a lot happening in your backyard

NQ Dry Tropics has helped improve over 300,000 hectares of land in the last 12 months.

There are 56 natural resource management (NRM) groups in Australia working with thousands of people to protect our special places for years to come.

This week, they're using the United Nations World Environment Day and its forests theme to remind people that there's a lot happening in their backyards.

NQ Dry Tropics is a not for profit, community-based organisation.

Its CEO Scott Crawford says, "Every weekend, every day, there are hundreds of people around Australia getting together with the support of their regional natural resource management group to work on farms, rivers, coastal systems and bushland."

"The Australian and Queensland Governments financially support much of this work. But communities are matching those dollars with their own cash, time and effort, often at a rate of \$3 to every government dollar.

Mike Berwick is the past mayor of the Douglas Shire and chair of the Queensland Regional Groups' Collective. This group represents Queensland's 14 community natural resource management (NRM) bodies.

Berwick says, "Queensland is a state of immense environmental value and we're working with regional communities, farmers and graziers and industry to ensure that we protect our special landscapes for future generations."

"In the past six years in Queensland, natural resource management groups have protected, enhanced or rehabilitated more than 1.5 million hectares of native vegetation," Berwick said.

Crawford says, "There's a lot happening in our backyard and World Environment Day on June 5 is the perfect time to learn more about how every day people are making a massive difference to the landscape."

For more information about the work happening in our area visit www.nqdrytropics.com.au

END

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

Working together to improve land and water