



Healthy Habitat is Back!

Over the past two years, residents of Alligator Creek, Nome, Julago, Serene Valley, Black River, Brookhill and Oak Valley have helped over 120 landholders, held 10 training sessions and put over 11500 hectares under management plans with help from NQ Dry Tropics' Healthy Habitat project.

Now we're back with a new and improved program to help you and your neighbours continue the great work you've been doing on your properties. If you've never worked with us before, we would love to talk to you about our program.

What's in it for me?

Our team of experts will produce a map and a land management plan for your property. This may help you learn more about your property and will help you plan management actions that could improve the value of your land.

Through the Healthy Habitat project you can access up to \$2000 (GST exclusive) to do a small project to improve the habitat on your property. If you've already received money from the program, you will be eligible to apply again.

During the project we will be holding a number of workshops on topics such as weed removal, native plants, native animals, fire management, erosion control and establishing community groups to undertake on-going habitat management. If you have other ideas, we would love to hear them.

What do I have to do?

You don't have to do much other than have a desire to improve native habitat on your property. We'll help you plan activities that fit with the level of time and effort you want to put in. If you do want to access our funding grants, you will need to match our contribution. You can do this through your own labour, use of your own machinery, or through the purchase of materials. Funding can also be used to hire contractors and labourers to help you actually **do** the work.

How can I get involved?

First you'll need to register for the program and book a property visit. You can do this by calling us on 4722 5746, emailing us at hadmin@nqdrytropics.com.au or attending one of our events.

What will happen once I join the program?

We've re-evaluated our timelines. If you participate in our program, this is what you can expect:

- Stage 1 – You will receive a phone call from our staff to book in a time for your Field Officer to visit you and your property.
- Stage 2 – Your Field Officer will arrive at your place with a resource kit tailored specifically to your area. An open discussion of your goals and aspirations will be had whilst also discussing the land issues that are happening on your property.
- Stage 3 – Your Field Officer will develop a Land Management Plan (LMP) based on the information received from the property visit. You will receive your LMP **2 weeks** from the date of property visit.



- Stage 4 – After reading over the information and recommendations in your LMP, it's time to start thinking about how you can start actioning working towards your own goals for your property.
- Stage 5 – We will call to schedule a second visit with our Field Officer. The revisit will be approximately **2 weeks** after you receive your LMP. The Field Officer will then assist you in finalising your action plan and preparing your funding application.
- Stage 6 – Two weeks from receiving your funding application, we will be in touch with news of your success. It is now time to start your project!
- Stage 7 – Record all on ground works in your project diary and keep copies of all relevant receipts. Upon completion of your project, you will need to send us some photos and a brief diary listing the activities you've completed.
- Stage 8 – CONGRATULATIONS on completion of your project

***Note: All projects will need to be completed by 1st May 2013**

Is NQ Dry Tropics a government agency?

NQ Dry Tropics is a local, not for profit community organisation. We receive funding from the Australian Government, but we are not a government organisation and do not pass your details onto the government. For the past ten years we've worked with landholders, industry, government, schools, community groups and the broader community to improve our local environment. We look forward to working with you.

How will this program help our environment?

The Healthy Habitat project aims to protect native habitat around Townsville. This means planting native plants, removing weeds and pests, controlling fire and erosion in key areas, and providing habitat for our native animals. By looking after native habitat, we can ensure our backyards remain healthy be they bushland, creek, or paddock.

How can I improve my chances of getting money?

Funding applications can be made for activities that help restore and protect native habitat. Projects may include:

- Pasture Management – implementing new grazing patterns and planting native grasses
- Bushland Management – planting more local native species and undertaking weed removal in bush land
- Creek Protection –planting natives along creek banks to outcompete weeds
- Native Plantings – using native species for landscaping and creating animal refuges

Participants with a property over two hectares can also lodge a pest and weed management plan with the Townsville City Council, giving you a three year subsidy for the chemicals you purchase for weed control.

How will my application be assessed?

There are four criteria for assessment of your application:

- The area of native habitat that will be restored and/or protected
- The diversity of species that will be protected
- The extent of linkages made with neighbouring properties
- Value for money

This project is supported by NQ Dry Tropics, through funding from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country.



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Working together to improve land and water