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NQ Dry Tropics responds to Cyclone Yasi

Seeing a mob of cattle crushed under trees is heartbreaking enough.

Add to that thousands of kilometres of fencing that needs rebuilding, trees to clear and sheds to replace and you have a situation that's enough to give you long term headaches.

Many of the grazing properties that were in the path of February's Cyclone Yasi experienced large infrastructure and cattle losses. Cattle have been lost through wandering or fallen debris.

Grazing properties inland from Ingham to Babinda suffered the most.

Graziers started calling NQ Dry Tropics soon after the cyclone swept through north Queensland. They wanted to know what affect the damage had on Reef Rescue projects they had either started or were planning for.

Some graziers said they might have to withdraw their interest in an approved project due to other priorities. NQ Dry Tropics is working with them to find a way they can go through with projects.

NQ Dry Tropics has assessed the damage to natural resources caused by the cyclone. Staff chartered a helicopter to photograph and map damaged areas.

It was a good chance to talk to graziers about how they fared and how they're going to rebuild.

Staff visited O'Brien's property Kinrara, 120 kilometres west of Ingham, where at least 50 per cent of trees were destroyed and a lot of fences damaged. A mob of cattle sheltering under trees was crushed into the mud when the trees fell.

Like most property owners in the area the O'Briens have lost cattle to neighbours because fences are down. They will have to wait until they or neighbours muster before they have any chance of reclaiming their stock.

Fencing and clearing fallen trees is by far one of the biggest headaches. Some land managers will have to do it themselves, others can afford to pay stations hands to help, but even so the task ahead is daunting.

NQ Dry Tropics can't fund fence rebuilds but thanks to Reef Rescue it might be able to fund graziers to replace fence lines where they will best benefit productivity, waterways and wildlife. It's an opportunity to help realign fences to suit land types and protect rivers.

Please call NQ Dry Tropics on 4724 3544 to find out how we can help you.