



Australian Government



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MEDIA RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE THURSDAY 01/10/2015

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## Reef Catchments announces successful projects for \$135,000 of NLP funding

**Seventeen (17) new environmental projects will have the resources and support they need to go ahead, thanks to a new round of funding provided by Reef Catchments through the Australian Government National Landcare Programme (NLP).**

Reef Catchments has provided 11 local Mackay Whitsunday Isaac groups with \$135,000 for on-ground projects, rolled out regionally under the *Looking After Local Landscapes* program.

From marine and island debris removal, to fish tagging and research, pest and weed mapping, development of a community garden and waterway and creek rehabilitation – successful project applicants cover a diverse range of high priority issues relevant to our region.

Reef Catchments manager, Katrina Dent, said the focus of the funding was on community projects that allowed local groups to work within their own landscape, needs and priorities.

“This really is about groups in the Mackay, Whitsunday and Isaac region having access to funds for projects that are directly connected to the local community. Funding also targets key Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES), with a focus on inland and coastal areas,” she said.

“We would like to say a big congratulations to all our successful applicants. Reef Catchments looks forward to working with the community together on projects that continue to contribute to the improved environmental health of our region.

“Regardless of the size and scope of projects, it is essential our local groups are supported to implement activities that can make a difference.”

Community groups were invited to apply for grants of between \$2,000 and \$15,000 with successful activities covering projects of all sizes. Many of the projects are being rolled out in collaboration with farmers and landholders across the region.

Dave Hunter, Chair of Pioneer Catchment Landcare Group (PCL) said the funding would support a wide range of new activities for the group, including significant restoration, erosion, bank stability and habitat works at St Helen’s Creek.

Thanks to NLP funding, the group will also work with landholders to install a series of nest boxes for native wildlife.

“Natural tree hollows for some of our native species, for example sugar gliders and microbats, can take decades to form. Obviously when trees are cleared these important nesting areas disappear, so the installation of nesting boxes is vital for the life cycle of our local wildlife,” Mr Hunter said.



“We are proud to work with Reef Catchments on these and other projects. This funding will enable us to extend our on-ground activities far beyond what we previously could – a great opportunity for us to expand environmental works in the local catchment.”

**Successful projects and applicants will be formally announced at the NLP Launch event Thursday October 1<sup>st</sup>.**

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**A full list of projects is included below:**

Airlie Beach Aquatic Reef Club: School holiday education program
Eco Barge: Eight (8) marine debris removal trips
Isaac Regional Council: Coastal connectivity and rehabilitation along the Clairview foreshore reserve
Mackay Recreational Fishers Alliance: Baseline Data collection for net-free fishing zones
DNRM: Fish Tagging in the O’Connell River (quantifying flow requirements necessary for breeding stimulation and/or migration to estuarine and marine spawning grounds for diadromous fish species)
Reef Check Australia: RCA Reef Health surveys
Wild Mob: Percy Island- reduce weed infestations and marine debris on turtle nesting beaches
Finch Hatton Community Garden Inc: Community garden development
Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group: Seed collection
Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group: St Helen's Creek rehabilitation including erosion control and bank stability and habitat improvement
Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group: Development of community education material
Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group: Cats Claw Creeper mapping – pest mapping
Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group: Owens Creek – weed management and watering (revegetation maintenance)
Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group: Installation of habitat nest boxes in collaboration with landholders
Sarina Landcare and Catchment Management Association: Community awareness raising events including grazing land management, native vegetation and biodiversity, weed identification and management, native flora and fauna and public natural areas e.g. coastal esplanades
Sarina Landcare and Catchment Management Association: Weed mapping
Whitsunday Catchment Landcare: Conway Beach – weed management