




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MOUNT COOT-THA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Community Sustainability Action Grants

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (2.31 pm): I am pleased to announce today that 18 heritage projects will receive a total of \$701,944 under the initial round of the Community Sustainability Action grants program. Grants of up to \$50,000, excluding GST, will be provided for urgent conservation activities, such as repointing crumbling brickwork, urgent stabilisation works and the control of termites.

Funding will also be provided for projects which seek to develop conservation management plans. These important documents will inform decisions on future conservation works to be conducted on a heritage building. Grant recipients include owners of heritage listed buildings and organisations that are responsible for managing such buildings.

Sites funded under the grant program are located right across Queensland and include the Rocky Creek World War II igloo at Atherton and Loudoun House at Irvinebank. Heritage places are central to our community's character and identity. They allow us to trace our history and feel connected to the important stories about our progress.

This grant funding is a demonstration of the Palaszczuk government's committed to heritage places and will help ensure they are conserved for the enjoyment of generations to come. The heritage category of the grant program received a strong response from Queensland's heritage community with 99 applications received.

The Community Sustainability Action grant program is providing a total of \$12 million over three years to 2018-19. Today, I can also announce that the Palaszczuk government is now offering grants of up to \$25,000 for sustainability and environmental projects, which will contribute to community action on climate change in Queensland. Climate change has the potential to reduce our quality of life and damage our unique environment in Queensland. Communities have an important role to play in taking action on climate change by working together to reduce our emissions and to build resilience for the environment.

Some \$1.92 million is available under this round of conservation grants. Eligible applicants include landcare, environmental community and volunteer groups as well as other not-for-profit groups. The grants aim to assist communities to address the impact of climate change on Queensland's urban spaces and natural environment in innovative ways.

Projects funded under the grant program will improve the sustainability of community facilities and the climate resilience of Queensland's natural landscapes. This includes measures to: improve the energy and water efficiency of community facilities; installation of community gardens and community compost systems; greening of Queensland's urban spaces through revegetation activities and

installation of green shading infrastructure on community facilities; and conservation of Queensland's natural resources through weeding and revegetation activities, pest control and litter and marine debris collection. Applications close on Tuesday, 13 December. I urge all members to work with groups in their communities to secure some of these funds.