




Speech By
Hon. Scott Stewart

MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Land Management, Funding

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (10.11 am): Right now, right across the state, local land management groups are gearing up to protect our soils and native vegetation with the backing of the Palaszczuk government. Today I can announce that local organisations from the gulf to Goondiwindi will share in more than \$11 million in state funds over two years. Those funds will support their invaluable work in implementing land management practices to improve the condition of Queensland's native vegetation and soils.

In all, 17 organisations will work with farmers, graziers, traditional owners and their local communities. Together they will build skills and knowledge to deliver activities ranging from gully repair to fencing off and protecting native vegetation on creek banks. The condition of our soil and our native vegetation is critical to Queensland. It is critical to our food and fibre industries, to our resources industry and to our tourism industry. It is critical to the good jobs that these industries generate for thousands of Queenslanders and for the business opportunities these industries create for suppliers.

Investing in more sustainable land use practices such as reducing overgrazing and boosting native vegetation helps to improve sustainable economic productivity and jobs. This is the Palaszczuk government budget delivering for Queenslanders. These funds are the first instalment of a budget commitment of \$40 million over four years to increase the potential of the state's natural resources and promote economic benefits in regional communities.

The recipients range from Healthy Land and Water, based here in Brisbane, out to the Macintyre Ag Alliance in Goondiwindi and up to the member for Traeger's country to Southern Gulf NRM at Mount Isa. A big part of their work is improving farmers' and graziers' knowledge of more innovative and sustainable land management practices. This includes practices like grazing and cropping rotation as well as new monitoring technology so that they can continue to create good jobs and economic benefits for their regional communities. These funds will also help land managers engage more with traditional owners so that their valuable traditional knowledge can be incorporated.

We have not forgotten the volunteers. Funds are also going towards training the 38,000 natural resources management volunteers and paid staff in these organisations right across our state. We are backing local groups and tapping into their local knowledge, because time and again this has proven to deliver the best results for Queensland's natural resources.