



CHRRUP

Central Highlands Regional Resources Use Planning Cooperative

**Media Release
09 December 2008**

Communities get Help to Care for our Country

Central Highlands organisations who are willing to work together ‘to make a difference’ are encouraged to apply for project funding under the Australian Government’s new Caring for our Country Business Plan.

The Australian Government recently released its Caring for our Country Business Plan for 2009-10, which provides a new and comprehensive approach to funding community projects to protect and sustainably manage Australia’s natural environment.

Rolfe Ellem, Executive Officer for CHRRUP (Central Highlands Regional Resources Use Planning Cooperative) said the document is essential reading for all organisations active in Natural Resource Management in the Central Highlands, as well as councils, industry and community groups.

“There are great opportunities for our community, as funding is available for projects ranging from \$20 000 up to million dollar partnership programs. Good funding applications start with good ideas, so it would be of great benefit to have as many people as possible in the area aware of this new funding environment.”

In order to achieve increased commitment to priority areas of community skills, knowledge and engagement, the Australian Government expects regional natural resource management groups to coordinate local level projects.

Rolfe said, “The larger regional bodies, such as the Fitzroy Basin Association, will certainly be taking a leading role in the process. However, sub-regional bodies like CHRRUP, along with producer groups, industry groups and local councils will have the chance to form partnerships for multi-regional projects, as



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well as initiating their own activities. Large and medium projects can integrate actions across large geographic areas, and achieve significant benefits.”

Applications for funding begin in early March 2009, with a deadline of 31 March 2009. The Australian Government is running a series of information sessions to provide details on Caring for our Country investment priorities, their impact on different organisations, and how to submit an investment proposal. A session for Central Queensland participants will be held at the DPI&F Conference Centre, cnr Bruce Highway & Yeppoon Rd, North Rockhampton, from 1-4pm on Tuesday, 16 December. RSVP to caroline.crawford@icc.gov.au .

Rolfe said, “I urge people who have read this, and are interested in attending, to RSVP, and to contact CHRRUP on 49822 996 so we can assist with efficient transport arrangements.”

Ends

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