



Australian Government

# Media Release

Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2008

## **NORTHERN TASMANIA RECEIVES MORE THAN \$570,000 IN COASTCARE GRANTS**

NRM North has secured four grants totalling more than 570 thousand dollars under the Australian Government's Caring For Our Country Community Coastcare program.

The Commonwealth announced yesterday 22.5 million dollars in funds to more than 400 local and community groups on the nation's coastline.

NRM North received funding for four projects:

- \$204, 054 for the Waterhouse Conservation Area project
- \$187, 363 to protect and enhance a fragile coastal ecosystem in the Bay of Fires Conservation area
- \$180, 600 to address key threats to the Lower Ringarooma River Floodplain Ramsar site
- \$4, 140 to rehabilitate the foreshore and coastal reserve at Killiecrankie on Flinders Island.

NRM North Chief Executive Officer, James McKee, said it was a fantastic result for northern Tasmania.

"It's wonderful to receive funds for four important projects including one for the topical Bay of Fires Conservation Area." Mr McKee said.

"This project will address issues surrounding unauthorised vehicle and pedestrian access, erosion, habitat fragmentation and weeds by implementing an on-ground works and community awareness program."

Mr McKee said the project will protect significant coastal ecological communities, regenerate areas of coastal vegetation, protect critical habitat for threatened flora and fauna species and raise awareness of and protect cultural heritage.

The Waterhouse Conservation Area project will protect a Ramsar wetland, regenerate areas of coastal heath, sand dune and forest vegetation and protect critical habitat for threatened flora and fauna species.

The project for the Lower Ringarooma River floodplain Ramsar site includes rehabilitating sand dune vegetation, protecting critical habitat for threatened flora and fauna species and removing feral cats.

The Federal Member for Bass, Jodie Campbell, said the Federal Government recognises the efforts of NRM North in protecting the natural environment in northern Tasmania.

" NRM North's collaborative efforts with community groups and its wider education programs are vital to the preservation of our unique natural resources." Ms Campbell said.

"I look forward to continuing to work closely with the NRM North and following with interest the projects funded through the Caring For Our Country Community Coastcare program."

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