



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Peter Lindsay MP** **Federal Member for Herbert**

19 December 2006

#### **\$570,000 FOR JCU RESEARCH**

Researchers at James Cook University today received Federal Government funding of more than half a million dollars for the Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility (MTRSF) Programme.

The funding of \$572,342 for 26 separate key research projects is the first installment of over \$2 million in MTRSF funding that JCU will receive this financial year.

Federal Member for Herbert, Peter Lindsay, today presented the funding to Vice Chancellor Professor Bernard Moulden for researchers at James Cook University.

“The researchers at JCU are leading world class projects to examine the influences of climate change and water quality change on the Great Barrier Reef, the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and the connecting catchments,” Mr Lindsay said.

“This is a real commitment to world-class research that will address the vital needs of the North Queensland region and address the key environmental challenges facing the Great Barrier Reef and its catchments, tropical rainforests, including the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and the Torres Strait.”

MTRSF is a key element of the Australian Government’s \$100 million Commonwealth Environment Research Facilities (CERF) programme, and the \$40 million programme will fund research into North Queensland's unique environmental assets over five years until 2010.

The University is partnering with local business and industry groups, including the Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators and Powerlink. It is also collaborating with other universities and research organisations and the Queensland Government.

“Research focusing on these areas will provide us with the critical information needed to determine trends, measure pressures and develop possible solutions to the key issues facing our environment,” Mr Lindsay said.

*For further information see: [www.deh.gov.au/cerf](http://www.deh.gov.au/cerf)*