



MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP

Minister for the Environment and Water Resources

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\$100,000 TO CONTROL FERAL ANIMALS

Landholders in an area from Babinda to Mossman will benefit from a \$100,000 feral pig and dog control programme announced today by the Australian Government.

Minister for the Environment and Water Resources, Malcolm Turnbull, said the funds would allow for more comprehensive feral pig and dog control activities in northern portions of the Wet tropics.

“This additional funding is important to help prevent feral pigs from damaging World Heritage habitats, competing for food with native birds and animals, eating native bird chicks and eggs as well as reptiles and frogs,” he said.

Mr Turnbull said the funds will supplement \$500,000 in Australian Government Natural Heritage Trust funding being spent on control activities in the region through the regional Natural Resource Management body, Terrain NRM Ltd; and \$75,000 under the Australian Government Daintree Conservation Initiative.

"Feral pigs and dogs threaten agriculture and the long term survival of numerous native plants and animals, including the endangered Southern Cassowary bird. Fewer than 1500 of the flightless birds exist in Australia.

“It is critical in the long-term management of feral pigs and dogs that governments and the community adopt a coordinated approach to trapping, research and analysis,” he said.

The Australian Government through the Australian Rainforest Foundation will be working in partnership with landowners and Cairns and Douglas shire councils to control feral pigs and dogs on private land, he said.

The Australian Rainforest Foundation will also engage the CSIRO to research the feral dog problem and better methods of baiting feral pigs.

For more information on the Natural Heritage Trust visit www.nrm.gov.au

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