



7 May 2009

## Press release: Senator Hogg visits the Daintree rainforest

Senator The Honourable John Hogg, President of the Senate and Senator for Queensland, made a flying visit to North Queensland's spectacular Daintree rainforest today.

Senator Hogg was hosted by the Reef and Rainforest Research Centre (RRRC), a North Queensland-based, non-profit company which among other activities manages and delivers the federal government's \$40 million Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility (MTSRF).

Accompanied by RRRC's managing director, Sheriden Morris, Senator Hogg first visited James Cook University's Australian Canopy Crane Research Facility near Cape Tribulation, and talked with JCU researchers who receive funding through the MTSRF program.

One of the major topics of discussion was the likely impact of climate change on the rainforest and surrounding communities, and the climate change mitigation and adaptation options that the MTSRF-funded research is working to develop.

"One of the most important features of the MTSRF is that the focus is on research to help government and the tourist industry to manage our rainforests better," reflected Senator Hogg, while suspended in the crane's tiny yellow gondola, far above the rainforest canopy. "It is exciting to see the scientific resources that are available in North Queensland – such as James Cook University's canopy crane research facility – used to help generate management solutions to the environmental problems faced by the region."

After descending from the crane, the visitors met with local representatives from international NGO Rainforest Rescue, which is putting MTSRF-generated solutions into action in the Daintree, and viewed several revegetation sites in the vicinity of Cow Bay.

The Rainforest Revegetation Toolkit, derived from a productive collaboration between Griffith University, Terrain NRM and the MTSRF, helps non-specialists improve the success of their rainforest revegetation efforts. It is available for free public download from the MTSRF website ([http://www.rrrc.org.au/publications/biodiversity\\_monitoring2.html](http://www.rrrc.org.au/publications/biodiversity_monitoring2.html))

"It's very rewarding to see some of the tools that have been produced through the MTSRF already being picked up and used, by all kinds of organisations, to improve environmental sustainability," said Sheriden. "In this way all North Queenslanders are becoming beneficiaries of our federally-funded research programs."

The MTSRF is the largest component of the Australian Government's Commonwealth Environment Research Facilities program, a \$100 million portfolio administered by the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts.

"This was a great opportunity for the consortium the RRRC represents," said Sheriden. "While guiding the Senator on this visit we were able to really highlight the useful contributions being made by all of our research partners and end users working on climate change and rainforest issues."

"The RRRC's ability to deliver timely, comprehensive, relevant information directly to the people who need to know – in this case, through personal briefings to high-level members of the Rudd Government – is highly appreciated by all consortium members," she said.

***For more details please contact:***

**Sheriden Morris**, Managing Director of the Reef and Rainforest Research Centre, phone +61 7 4050 7400, [sheriden.morris@rrrc.org.au](mailto:sheriden.morris@rrrc.org.au), [www.rrrc.org.au](http://www.rrrc.org.au)

James Cook University's Australian Canopy Crane Research Facility may be available for media visits. Please phone 07 4098 005 or visit their website <http://www.jcu.edu.au/canopycrane/>

**For more information about RRRC or the MTSRF, please visit the website at [www.rrrc.org.au](http://www.rrrc.org.au)**