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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

# **Bucketeers wanted!**

North Queensland Conservation Council is looking for 150 households around the region to take part in a community trial of an alternative way of dealing with kitchen waste.

Tonielle Christensen, coordinator of NQCC's Bokashi Bucket Brigade campaign, explained "On average, Australians throw away 4.45 millions tonnes of food each year, that's approximately 936 kg per household. Most of this goes to landfill, but, contrary to what most people think, food in landfill doesn't become usable compost; it putrefies and releases methane – a gas 25 times more damaging for our environment than carbon dioxide.

"The urban composting system based on Bokashi that participants will be using, changes this. It turns food waste into nutrient-rich compost and biological fertiliser, both of which can be used to improve our soil."

The project was funded by the Department of Environment and Resource to provide hard data for use by local and state waste managers trying to decrease the demand for landfill and decrease the output of methane. The project will look at the factors that encourage and discourage households from recycling food waste.

According to Tonielle, "we will be looking for 75 households in Townsville and 25 in each of Ayr, Charters Towers and Ingham to join the Brigade for the 8-week trial. All participants have to do it complete a simple entry and exit survey and keep a record of food waste output and their use of the Bokashi bucket to dispose of the waste. Each participating household will be given a unique 'Urban Composting' Bucket and Bokashi, which will be theirs to keep at the end of the project".

Households in Townsville, Ayr, Charters Towers and Ingham who are interested in joining the project can apply online at [www.bokashiproject.nqcc.org.au](http://www.bokashiproject.nqcc.org.au). Alternatively, visit the NQCC stall at this weekend's Ecofiesta or the Palm Creek Festival (8-11 June) to view demonstrations and collect a postcard application. Applications close 15 June.

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