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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Local environment groups win support**

A consortium of local environment groups today announced that they had received a \$40,000 grant under the State government's 'Everyone's Environment' grant scheme. The consortium was one of only 41 applicants selected for funding from more than 200 applications.

The consortium, comprising North Queensland Conservation Council, Magnetic Island Nature Care Association, Magnetic Island Community Development Association, Geoffrey Bay Coastcare and Olympus Crescent Coastcare will use the money to clean up and rehabilitate significant creeks on World Heritage Magnetic Island in each of the Island's four residential bays.

The project will see volunteers working with experienced bushcare professionals and others to remove garbage and litter, and weed and revegetate stretches of Butler's Creek in Picnic Bay; Gustav and Kirk creeks in Nelly Bay; Peterson and Alma creeks in Arcadia; and the unnamed tidal creek behind the shops in Horseshoe Bay.

All the project activities will improve the environment and reduce environmental degradation arising from weed invasion and human disturbance.

Rubbish and weed removal, and restoration of bushland through revegetation with indigenous species will restore habitat for native birds and animals; buffer the National Park from edge-effects (e.g. garden escapees, invasive predators that prefer fragmented bushland); improve water quality of freshwater creeks; reduce runoff to the reef; and reduce erosion.

In addition to the functional improvement of the Island's environment, the visual aesthetic of the Island will be improved, increasing the island's appeal to one of the main sources of Island income – domestic and international eco-tourists.

The project will commence in January 2013 and be completed in December 2014.

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