

# MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 27 August, 2009



## Protect your own private Wetland Reserve

A leading conservation organisation is seeking landowners with natural wetlands in the lower Clarence and Richmond valleys for a new Wetlands Covenant Program.

The Nature Conservation Trust of New South Wales protects properties of high conservation value and is currently searching for landowners who want to protect natural wetlands on their property through a permanent conservation agreement with the organisation. This conservation agreement can cover part or all of the property.

This program is a joint project between the Nature Conservation Trust and the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority, supported by the Australian Government's Caring for our Country initiative.

Funding of up to \$15,000 will be provided by the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority to successful applicants to establish management of the conservation values of their wetlands.

The Nature Conservation Trust will also provide support to qualifying landowners through its Stewardship Program, offering management advice, information and assistance.

"Wetland areas protected through this program will make a valuable contribution to the National Reserve System, in a region where the conservation values of wetlands are outstanding," explained Rob Dunn, the Nature Conservation Trust's CEO.

"We have conducted similar programs to this one previously in the Northern Rivers, and all have received positive feedback from the landowners. In particular, the landowners were thrilled to be able to protect the precious parts of their properties as private nature reserves, whilst contributing to a greater conservation cause."

"This will be the first time we develop conservation agreements in the lower Clarence area and we are looking forward to working with local landowners to protect and enhance their wetlands," he said.

For further information or to apply for the program, contact Georgia Beyer on (02) 6626 0304 or [georgiab@nct.org.au](mailto:georgiab@nct.org.au). Applications close 25<sup>th</sup> September.



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