



MEDIA RELEASE

Conservation groups meet to discuss future of the environment in FNQ

8 November 2013

Representatives of 27 local, state and national environment groups will gather this weekend in Cairns. Hosted by the Cairns and Far North Environment Centre (CAFNEC), the groups will meet to identify opportunities for the movement to strengthen capacity and coordination in the face of mounting threats to biodiversity, lifestyle and sustainability initiatives.

The Far North is characterised by clean air and rivers, world class attractions such as the Great Barrier Reef and the Wet Tropics rainforests and abundant opportunity for renewable energy. On current trends, the things we value are all facing threats on a range of fronts. The decisions we make today will have a profound impact on the world we leave for future generations.

Climate change, rising sea levels, wildlife management, coastal development, river protection, port expansion and seabed dredging are all major issues that will affect our quality of life in the far north. For many of us, we don't want to live in a city without wildlife, beside an endangered reef, near a river we can't fish in anymore. We don't want to pass on something that is less than what we have today to future generations.

"The roundtable will provide an opportunity for groups to share information about major threats and issues and to develop strategies to encourage a more balanced approach with better environmental and social outcomes," says event organiser Anna McGuire.

"We are seeing an assault on environmental protection laws in Queensland and a disregard for science at the local level on issues such as the flying-fox dispersal. Local environment groups have serious concerns for the future of biodiversity in our region and our state, and we will be discussing ways to better protect the beautiful natural environment we are lucky enough to have."

Event details:

FNQ Environment Groups Roundtable, 9 November 2013.

Media contact:

Anna McGuire, Coordinator – Cairns and Far North Environment Centre, 4032 1746 or 0434 955 424