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MEDIA RELEASE

Quarter of a million dollars supporting sustainable agriculture and positive environmental change

NRM South is pleased to announce the launch of its latest Naturally Inspired Grants round, providing funding to support projects that deliver positive environmental change and sustainable farming initiatives across Southern Tasmania. The grants are open to community groups, not-for-profit organisations, schools, farmers, fishers, farming groups and conservation landowners.

Running since 2009 and now in its tenth round, the Naturally Inspired Grants for community have supported 95 different community groups and schools with more than \$450,000 in funding for a diverse range of activities; including native plant revegetation, rehabilitating sensitive habitat, weed management, controlling invasive species, developing awareness raising tools, running engagement events, and many more.

Naturally Inspired Grants for farmers and fishers has supported 34 landowners with \$157,000 since 2014, encouraging the adoption of innovative sustainable land use practices.

In Tasmania, we are fortunate to have a very active, dedicated community caring for our natural resources and, from January 2015 to June 2016, more than 27,000 volunteers, farmers and community members have participated in projects facilitated by the three NRM bodies in Tasmania.

The Naturally Inspired grants provide an opportunity for primary producers and community groups to undertake projects aligned with the NRM Strategy for Southern Tasmania, which outlines the key goals to sustainably manage Tasmania's natural resources. The current grant round offers a larger pool of funding for farmers, fishers and community groups to apply for, than in previous years. Commercial farmers in particular will have an opportunity to apply for grants of up to \$10,000 to carry out on-ground works and activities such as trials which will lead to increased sustainable agriculture outcomes.

NRM South CEO Donald Coventry encourages people and organisations who have an interest in protecting or improving a special place to apply for a grant.

"People and organisations who are passionate about their part of the world contribute a massive amount of time and resources into looking after it, and in recognising this commitment and enthusiasm we invite groups and individuals to apply for a share in a quarter of a million dollars to support their environmental or sustainable agriculture projects."

Funded by the Australian Government's National Landcare Program and Regional Landcare Facilitator, this grant round is focusing on three priority areas;

- Increasing engagement, participation and capacity building in natural resource management;
- Including on ground works to protect national and state listed species, communities and places;
- Encouraging farmers and fishers to adopt sustainable management initiatives.

Projects that address one or more of the above priorities can do so via any of the following activities:

- Direct on-ground works
- Building community capacity and awareness raising
- Engaging with indigenous people or supporting delivery by indigenous people
- Improving biosecurity measures

A new aspect of this round of Naturally Inspired grants builds on our Biosecurity program, where grant applicants can apply for additional funding to support improved biosecurity practices along with their grant project. NRM South encourages all grant applicants to play a role in protecting Tasmania's special places by helping stop the spread of pests and pathogens within southern Tasmania by adopting Check, Clean, Disinfect, Dry practices.

Applications for the Naturally Inspired Grants Round 10 are now open. Applications close on 29 January 2017.

For further information, please read the grant guidelines and application form available at nrmsouth.org.au/grants, contact Ruth Osborne on 6221 6161 or rosborne@nrmsouth.org.au (community group enquiries) or Holly Hansen 0428 259 156 or hhansen@nrmsouth.org.au (sustainable agriculture enquiries).

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