



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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Think Globally. Act Locally!

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MEDIA RELEASE

Re: Queensland government's NatureAssist program to conserve state's biodiversity



The Queensland government is offering funding to landholders for conservation projects through its NatureAssist program. The program allows landholders to register their property as a nature refuge and receive funding for projects aimed at protecting Queensland's biodiversity.

By establishing a nature refuge on their property, landholders can play a vital role in the protection, resilience and sustainable management of Queensland's natural environment. National parks alone cannot maintain Queensland's diverse plants,

animals and ecosystems in the midst of a changing climate.

When a piece of land is identified as a priority investment area, the government will contact the landholder. If the landholder agrees to establish their land as a nature refuge, NatureAssist will manage and fund contractors to complete the conservation projects. Project plans are negotiated between the government and the landholder.

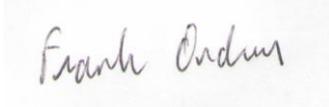
Criteria for projects include:

- minimising the impact of stock and pest animals on vulnerable areas
- stabilising soils
- improving water quality
- increasing the value of wildlife habitats
- managing pest plants, pest animals and fire.

"You do not have to choose between productivity and conservation because a nature refuge agreement can be negotiated to allow for continuing use of the land resulting in both ecological and economic sustainability" - [The Nature Refuges Program](#)

These projects have the potential to deliver both conservation outcomes and sustainable production benefits. While the NatureAssist program is voluntary, involvement is encouraged to ensure the conservation of Queensland's biodiversity.

For more information about NatureAssist, visit
<https://environment.des.qld.gov.au/wildlife/nature-refuges/nature-assist> or email
naturerefuge@des.qld.gov.au.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank Ondrus". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured background.

Frank Ondrus, President – HOPE Inc., ph. 07 4639 2135
Written by Meg Bowyer – HOPE Media Officer NSW