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## Successful project ends with splatter gun workshop

An intensive one day workshop to help landholders make the most of splatter gun equipment has capped off a highly successful program to protect native scrub in Boyne Calliope.

The two-year Rainforest Recovery Project was coordinated locally by the Boyne Calliope Sub Region (BCSR) of the Fitzroy Basin Association to protect and regenerate areas of critical rainforest ecosystems.

BCSR Coordinator Kristy Dalton said the workshop held in late July under the project enabled around 20 locals to learn about using splatter guns for weed control.

"This workshop was the last in a series of events and activities held during the life of the project to give land managers practical and effective skills to better manage scrub on their property," Ms Dalton said.

Ms Dalton said the workshop was designed for individual landholders who accessed funding under the project to purchase splatter guns to improve management of native rainforests on their land.

"Participants were able to gain more in-depth knowledge of when and how to use the splatter guns, and got to test them out on the day."

"In particular, the splatter guns are an excellent tool to control lantana – a highly invasive weed that can out-compete rainforest species," she said.

Ms Dalton said that \$300,000 had been invested in the Boyne Calliope area under the Rainforest Recovery Project, with further in-kind contributions of \$135,000 from landholders.

"This investment has allowed staff to conduct a number of workshops, help individuals purchase splatter guns, and establish on-ground projects with 35 landholders to protect valuable scrub endemic to our coastal environment," Ms Dalton said.

"In addition, six splatter guns were purchased and provided to the Gladstone Regional Council to hire out to the community to undertake weed control.

"The project has been highly successful in raising the awareness of rainforest ecosystems and giving land managers the practical tools and skills needed to make a difference in their management into the future."

She said that while this particular project had drawn to a close, Boyne Calliope Sub Region would continue working with local land managers under other programs.

"We will continue to offer training opportunities, provide technical and property planning advice and work with landholders to develop on-ground projects to improve infrastructure or implement better management techniques."

Ms Dalton encouraged interested landholders to contact Boyne Calliope Sub Region on Ph: 07 4975 6555, or visit their office at the Calliope Library Building.

**For further information or interviews** contact: Jody McDonald, Media and Communications Co-ordinator, 4999 2816, 0429 992 808, [jody.mcdonald@fba.org.au](mailto:jody.mcdonald@fba.org.au).

**Fitzroy Basin Association Inc.**

PO Box 139, Rockhampton Qld 4700, Ph: (07) 4999 2800, Fax: (07) 4921 2860