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MEDIA RELEASE

\$110K towards positive environmental change in Southern Tasmania

NRM South is pleased to announce the launch of its 2016 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, farmer groups, not-for-profit organisations, schools and individual landowners.

Running since 2009, the Naturally Inspired Grants have supported numerous landowners and more than 110 community groups with nearly \$400,000 in funding for a diverse range of activities; including native plant revegetation, rehabilitating sensitive habitat, weed management, controlling invasive species, developing awareness raising tools, adopting innovative land use practices, and many more.

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

"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 over \$110,000 of funding to support their environmental projects."

Funded by the Australian Government's National Landcare Program and Regional Landcare Facilitator, the 2016 grant round is focusing on three priority areas through a Community Group and Landowner/Sustainable Agriculture stream;

- 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

NRM South is also encouraging community groups and landowners to play a role in protecting Tasmania's special places by helping stop the spread of pests and pathogens within southern Tasmania. Eligible grant applicants can apply for a free kit when applying for a Naturally Inspired grant, and the kits are also available for anyone to purchase.

Applicants to Naturally Inspired grants can also nominate for a Green Army team to support on ground activities as part of their grant project. This is available through an NRM South and Landcare Tasmania partnership effort,

to provide hands on support to the community for on ground action, as well as support team members to actively learn through hands on experience.

Applications for the Naturally Inspired Grants Round 9 are now open. Community group stream applications close on Sunday 6 March 2016, and Landowner/Sustainable Agriculture stream closes on Sunday 13 March 2016.

For further information, please read the grant guidelines and application form available at nrmsouth.org.au/grants, or contact Ruth Osborne on 6221 6161 or rosborne@nrmsouth.org.au

Media should contact Nathalie Laurence, Communications Officer for NRM South on 6221 6122 or via email on nlaurence@nrmsouth.org.au

