



Rainforest CRC

For Immediate Release
Friday, 22 April 2005

NEW FUNDING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH ON AUSTRALIA'S TROPICAL RAINFOREST & REEF

Cairns, Tropical North Queensland. The Member for Leichardt, Warren Entsch announced today funding to establish a new \$40 million Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility for Far North Queensland.

This new integrated centre will gradually take over the research currently being undertaken by the Rainforest CRC and CRC Reef. The details of how the new centre will operate are yet to be announced by Minister for Environment, Senator Ian Campbell.

Professor Nigel Stork, CEO Rainforest CRC welcomed this announcement. "The government has shown its commitment and strong support for environmental research on our reef and rainforest. We are very grateful for the efforts of Mr Entsch MP in Cairns, Peter Lindsay MP in Townsville and Senator Ian Campbell in achieving this marvelous outcome.

"The new centre has the potential to become the most important tropical research centre in the world and builds on the pioneering work that the Rainforest CRC and CRC Reef have done. The new and exciting challenge will be to integrate as much of our research across these environments so that we can tackle the major environmental problems right through from catchments to reef.

"We look forward to working with the Department of Environment and Heritage in helping to establish this new centre." Said Professor Stork.

Current research being undertaken by Rainforest CRC researchers at James Cook University, CSIRO, Griffith University and the University of Queensland includes areas such as the possible impact of climate change on our tropical forests, studies on the rainforest canopy using the canopy crane, helping to improve the design of roads and power lines in tropical forests, wildlife studies on flying foxes, feral pigs and tree kangaroos, and working with Indigenous communities.

The Rainforest CRC and CRC Reef are currently working together on a joint program - Catchment to Reef - helping to improve water quality in our rivers and our reef.

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For further information: Professor Nigel Stork, CEO, Rainforest CRC Tel: 07 4042 249
Mob: 0419774784

Media Inquiries: Pip Miller PR Tel: 07 4046 4777 mob: 0419681543 E:
pip@pippr.com.au