



Desley Boyle MP
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Graduation Day for animal management workers

Ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students have graduated as Animal Management Workers.

The group has completed a Certificate IV in Animal Control and Regulation following a 12-month course funded by the Queensland Government.

Tropical Regional Services Environmental Health Services Director Paul Endres presented the students with their certificates at a ceremony in Cairns.

"The aim of the course is to provide students with skills to contribute to on-ground animal welfare management and to help prevent the spread of zoonotic diseases within their communities," said Mr Endres.

"The course also provides ongoing employment and capacity building for local Indigenous people".

Within communities the new Animal Management Workers will be able to provide:

- education information and support to residents
- assistance in dealing with animal welfare
- a comprehensive feral eradication program
- community input into programs that impact upon and address domestic and feral issues.

Member for Cairns Desley Boyle who is also Local Government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Minister said workers who completed Certificate IV in Animal Control and Regulation were some of the most highly-qualified animal management workers in local government across Australia.

"This is a win-win situation. It is a plus for local governments, a plus for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and a plus for Cairns to be able to provide the training for these jobs," Ms Boyle said.

"Local Animal Management Workers within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities have a better understanding of their communities and the cultural factors that need to be taken into account.

"The students who graduated today are from Bamaga, Cherbourg, Kowanyama, Pormpuraaw, Yarrabah, Palm Island, Thursday Island and Badu Island.

"The program commenced in 2007 and is coordinated by the Queensland Rural Industry Training Council with assistance from the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and Cairns Regional Council.

"The program has a strong focus on working with communities to drive change from within," said Ms Boyle.

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