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KERRY SHINE MP

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Toowoomba North Communities to share in river cleanup grants

Toowoomba North community groups are encouraged to apply for \$500 grants to help with the long task of cleaning up flood-damaged waterways, Kerry Shine Member for Toowoomba North announced today.

Mr Shine said the Bligh Government funded Community Waterway Litter Cleanup Grants – to be administered by Healthy Waterways – would provide assistance to dedicated community groups who have worked tirelessly both before and after the floods to improve waterways in South East Queensland.

“I am delighted to announce that grants will be made available up to \$500 to assist with waterway litter cleanup projects,” Mr Shine said.

“I really encourage Toowoomba North groups to apply for funding to help clear our precious waterways.

“This is a great opportunity for the community to get involved in caring for their local waterway and help to clear the flood litter that still remains on our creek and river banks.

“The Bligh Government gave SEQ Healthy Waterways a \$2 million budget boost last year to continue their good work and also undertake targeted flood recovery projects.

“In addition, the Healthy Waterways Clean Up crew will be available to assist in clearing up any litter in the most severely affected catchments.

Mr Shine said the grants would be welcome news for community groups who have dedicated countless hours already to restoring waterways in their communities.

“This means a wide range of community groups can apply for support to help fix their local waterways.

“I would strongly encourage any community group, school or landholder who has been cleaning up important sections of their flood-affected creeks to apply for a grant to help out,” Mr Shine said.

“Just over a year ago the south-east corner was cleaning up from one of the worst natural disasters in recent memory, matched only by an outpouring of community spirit that saw tens of thousands of volunteers flood the streets and help clean up.

“Dedicated conservation volunteers, community groups and government officers have continued the painstaking task of picking through river banks, creeks, streams and low-lying areas to make sure every last piece of debris and rubbish is removed.

“It will be a long clean-up, with each tide dislodging more rubbish and each big rainfall flushing out more debris.”

Applications are open until 5pm Friday 24 February 2012. The chosen projects will be awarded a one-off grant of \$500 and all waterway litter cleanup activities must be completed by June 2012.

Healthy Waterways is a non government, not-for-profit organisation working to protect and improve waterway health in South East Queensland.

For more information visit www.healthywaterways.org.

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