



# MEDIA RELEASE

## SENATOR THE HON NICK SHERRY

Minister for Small Business  
Minister Assisting on Deregulation and Public Sector Superannuation  
Minister Assisting on Tourism

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### TOURISM INVESTMENT REVIVES HISTORIC QLD HOMESTEAD

Minister Assisting on Tourism, Senator Nick Sherry, has opened the Townsville region's newest heritage attraction, which provides the only farm-stay experience in the area.

The Australian Government's *TQUAL Grants* program contributed \$100,000 to the refurbishment of the homestead at Mount Flagstone Station in Woodstock. The refurbishment includes disability access.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, the homestead was the Meatworks Manager's residence in Townsville.

"More than ever, Australians are turning to our heritage to generate fresh economic opportunities," said Minister Sherry at today's official opening.

"The relocated and renovated building at Mount Flagstone Station gives visitors an authentic experience of staying in rural Queensland.

"Visitors with more options are more likely to stay longer and spend more – so the whole local economy benefits.

"Small business is at the heart of the tourism industry, especially in regional areas. More than 4,400 businesses in Queensland's North rely on tourism to a greater or lesser extent. Nearly half of those businesses employ fewer than 20 people.

"In this region alone, 2.2 million visitors spent \$808 million last financial year.

"The small business sector thrives on the economic opportunities tourism offers - that's why *TQUAL Grants* is such an important part of the Australian tourism landscape."

In Queensland alone, nine projects have received *TQUAL Grants* totalling \$1,466,010 since the program began in 2009.

To date, the Australian Government has allocated over \$8 million to *TQUAL Grants* projects across the country.

The Australian Government has committed an additional \$40 million to *TQUAL Grants* over four years. Information on *TQUAL Grants* funding is at [www.ret.gov.au/tqual](http://www.ret.gov.au/tqual)

WOODSTOCK

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