

Senator Larissa Waters
Senator for Queensland

Media release

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Senate calls on Abbott Government to provide overdue funding for Queensland's Wet Tropics

The Senate has passed a Greens' motion today calling on the Abbott Government to urgently provide overdue base funding to the Wet Tropics Management Authority.

"Alarming, the Wet Tropics Management Authority hasn't yet received its base funding for this financial year which is now almost six months overdue," Senator Larissa Waters, Australian Greens environment spokesperson, said.

"The International Union for the Conservation of Nature recently recognised the Wet Tropics as one of the top three most irreplaceable biodiversity areas on earth.

"The Authority plays a vital role in protecting this spectacular World Heritage Area, home to the Daintree Rainforest and the endangered cassowary.

"This startling delay in base funding follows a decline in funding over the last decade, factoring in inflation.

"Funding delays threaten the protection of this irreplaceable biodiversity hotspot and tourism icon.

"In addition to the lack of funds, important positions on the Authority's board have been left empty.

"The Abbott Government must immediately act on the Senate's motion by urgently delivering the base funding and progressing the appointment of Authority board members," Senator Waters said.

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