

MEDIA RELEASE

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Pasture planting for persistence

The Grain and Graze research and development program will be hosting a field day on a mixed farming property near Weengallon on 8 February.

Hosted by Grain and Graze partners, the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC) and the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F), the field day will look at pasture establishment, species selection, and the role of pastures in the management of saline soils.

“The hosting landholder, Paul Southern, has land in the Goondoola Basin area, which has a range of soil management challenges that have influenced pasture performance in recent years,” said QMDC’s Kathryn Taylor.

“Some of these areas are scalded or have a hard setting surface, or are extremely dry or fragile as a result of the really low rainfall in recent years,” she said.

“Paul and other landholders in the area have been working with their local Landcare group for about five years, now, exploring what pasture species work best on saline soils and other soils common across this region,” she said.

Brian Johnson, from the DPI&F, said that, aside from the examples of salinity management, Paul’s property also provided a good case study for pasture establishment and persistence under dry conditions.

“Paul has some good new stands of pasture and some older stands that have thinned out on the poplar box red soils that are common in this district,” he said.

“His pasture mixes display what has and hasn’t survived over the last couple of extremely dry seasons. If these conditions are to be more common, as is predicted, then there is much to be learnt from Paul’s pastures.”

“With many people in this area planting pastures in old cultivation country, Paul’s experiences will provide some really valuable information,” said Brian.

The field day will include presentations from Paul Southern and other local landholders, QMDC, the DPI&F, the Department of Natural Resources and Water, and Brendan Griffiths from Griffiths Agriculture.

Topics covered will include pasture species selection, establishment and management for production and long term persistence, the use of deep rooted perennial pastures in the management and prevention of dry land salinity, and including saltbush as part of a grazing system.

The field day will begin at 8:30am on Friday, 8 February, with attendees meeting at the “Lyolia” homestead, near Weengallon.

People wishing to attend the field day will need to RSVP to Kathryn Taylor on 07 4671 7960 by 4 February.

“The field day will be a great opportunity for landholders around the district to share our own experiences of managing this land, and access new information at the same time,” said Paul.

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Images



DPI&F's Brian Johnson (right) with local Nindigully landholder, Stuart Hill, at a recent pasture establishment field day.

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