

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Water training empowers rural women

“Turbidity”, “pH” and “EC” were words commonly used by a group of six women when they participated in water quality testing accreditation in Goondiwindi recently.

The training was offered by the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC) to rural landholders to add to their skills and raise their involvement in their local catchment areas.

QMDC said that it hoped to encourage the women, who undertook the training at the Goondiwindi Town Common on 1 February, to put their skills to good use by testing water on their properties and within their local catchments.

Melissa Cundy, Water Quality Technical Officer at QMDC said, “The results of these tests could then be used by the community to assess water quality in their river and compare it to that of other catchments.”

Melissa said that these results would be used to generate baseline data. “Water quality monitoring allows us to determine what sort of chemicals are entering our waterways and provide an insight into potential problems that may occur,” she said. “We can use the results to make informed decisions regarding catchment management.”

Mrs Marianne McMillan, who participated in the accreditation day, said that she really enjoyed the day and found the training very helpful. “It was really interesting to find out about all the aspects of river health,” she said.

QMDC is planning to hold further water quality training across the Inglewood Shire in 2008. For more information, please call QMDC’s Border Rivers office (Goondiwindi) on 07 4671 7900.

**ENDS**

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