

MEDIA RELEASE

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Soil pits fill gaps for Mitchell landholders

State agency and natural resource management staff recently held a Soil Characterisation field day for landholders in the Mitchell district.

Staff from the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC), Department of Natural Resources and Water (NRW), Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F) and South West Natural Resource Management Group (South West NRM) ran the field day on Laine and Neville Morris's property, south of Mitchell, last month.

Fifteen landholders from surrounding properties attended.

Ryan Ellis, from QMDC, said "the field day was part of a Soil Characterisation Project, which involved agency staff identifying gaps in available soil information for the region."

"The day was full of presentations from various staff involved in the Soil Characterisation Project, sharing the findings of the project with local landholders," he said.

"Soil pits, laboratory results and specialist knowledge provided by NRW staff were used to demonstrate the local soil characteristics, sub-soil constraints and inherent qualities of particular soils."

"Landholders were able to examine the 1.2 metre soil profiles (or pits) for themselves, and find out about the abilities these soils have to absorb and store moisture, sustain root and plant growth, and determine surface vegetation and ground cover," said Ryan.

"DPI&F staff were also on hand to explain the implications these types of soils can have on pasture establishment and grazing management."

The Mitchell Soil Characterisation field day was one of several that have recently been held across the Maranoa-Balonne and Border Rivers catchments. More field days are planned across the region. For more information, contact either the Roma office (07 4622 8446) or the Goondiwindi office (07 4671 7900).

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