

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Saving Mitchell's soil

A recent modelling exercise conducted in the Mitchell district has found that graziers in that area will soon be saving around 1300 tonnes of their soil per year from washing into the Maranoa River.

The exercise was conducted by local graziers, the Mitchell and District Landcare Association and local natural resource group, the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC).

Water Projects Officer for QMDC, Paul Webb, lead the exercise, using a computer program developed by the Queensland Government to predict the impact a number of environmental projects around Mitchell will have on erosion and water quality, once completed.

"A lot of graziers around Mitchell have worked with QMDC, receiving funding to undertake riparian, fencing, and grazing projects that will improve soil and water health," he said.

"But these are long-term projects – it can take up to five years before we see results – so it was important for us to establish now whether all the time and money will be worth it."

Local graziers and members of the Landcare group, Jeff and Jackie Campbell, said the exercise had boosted morale in the region, and inspired a lot of people to continue monitoring the impact their farming is having on the environment.

"When Paul first presented the findings to us, we were just amazed.

"It [the findings] roughly equates to four ute loads of topsoil per day that we're now keeping in the paddock, instead of watching it wash away," said Jeff.

"That's not just important for the environment, it's extremely important for local production, too," he said.

"And it's a great boost for us all to know that, even in drought, we're able to have a positive impact on the environment, without sacrificing our production levels."

Paul Webb said that QMDC will now take this computer modelling exercise to other farming groups, to build a better picture of the impacts of agriculture on the environment across southern Queensland.

"Importantly, these figures are only predictions of what can be achieved by NHT subsidised projects – it doesn't include other initiatives of individual farmers. This means that the figures are extremely conservative, despite how impressive they are," said Paul.

## ENDS

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### Images



**Caption:** QMDC's Paul Webb presents the findings of a computer modelling exercise to a room full of Mitchell graziers



**Caption:** Mitchell grazier, Jeff Campbell (right), gets a visit from Australian Government representatives to discuss the impressive achievements he and fellow graziers have had.



**Caption:** Paul Webb and Jeff Campbell inspect Jeff's pasture establishment, which will not only support his cattle, but will also keep his top soil where it belongs: in the paddock.



**Caption:** Despite severe drought conditions, Mitchell graziers are working hard to establish and maintain healthy pastures to prevent erosion, with help from QMDC and Queensland and Australian Government funding.