

Australian *Flexible Learning* Framework

supporting e-learning opportunities

MEDIA RELEASE

Cyber learning for land managers

Land managers in the Queensland Murray-Darling region are being shown just how easy it is to use wikis, audio files and other online resources to access land management training.

The *E-learning for natural resource management* project aims to bring e-learning to the region to improve land management practices, such as water efficiency, soil erosion and weed management.

The Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC) has been awarded \$39,930 from the [Community Engagement Project](#) of the national training system's e-learning strategy, the [Australian Flexible Learning Framework](#) for the project.

"Land managers are very time-poor," said Community Training Coordinator Sandy Robertson. "Their time is dependant on the seasons, workloads and family commitments.

"We can offer one-day workshops but that is not enough time for accredited training. But if we use e-tools, such as online forums, blogs and wikis, then land managers can access flexible training around their commitments."

Initially, 32 Landcare Coordinators and technical staff, covering a region of three million hectares, will be skilled in using e-tools through face-to-face workshops.

They will then become advocates for the technology and through their networks show land managers the benefits of going online.

Four groups will take part in a pilot River Restoration course, which will comprise an online component and two-day practical workshop for on-site training and assessment.

By taking part in the project, land managers will be better equipped to independently access training and technical material available online through government and industry websites.

"Science and technology is moving at a very fast pace," added Sandy. "So why not use the technology to inform land managers about best practice and innovations as well as support them with accredited training?"

For more information about the E-learning for natural resource management project, please contact Sandy Robertson at QMDC on 07 4637 6201.

For more information about the Australian Flexible Learning Framework, telephone (07) 3307 4700, email: enquiries@flexiblelearning.net.au or visit: <http://www.flexiblelearning.net.au>

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For more information about this story contact Hayley Beck, telephone (07) 3307 4700, or email: flexenews@flexiblelearning.net.au

Notes to editors

- The **Australian Flexible Learning Framework** ([Framework](#)) is the national training system's e-learning strategy, collaboratively funded by the Australian Government and all states and territories at \$15 million annually.
- Since 2000, the Framework has provided the vocational training and education (VET) system with e-learning skills, professional development, resources and support networks to strengthen the skills base of Australia.
- The [Community Engagement Project](#) is one of 14 Framework projects. It aims to foster and embed e-learning within some of Australia's most disadvantaged communities, in turn helping their economic and regional development. Another key focus of the project is to strengthen partnerships at a local, state and national level in order to inform and engage other community learning initiatives.
- During 2007, six projects are being funded, reaching out to mature age women, volunteers, disengaged learners, the unemployed and land managers – in metropolitan, regional, rural and remote areas. The outcomes of these projects and the learning models they create will be shared with other communities across Australia.

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