

MEDIA RELEASE

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Goondoola Basin, Weengallon farmers receive \$990 thousand to help the land

Fourteen farming families in the Goondoola Basin and Weengallon regions, in between Goondiwindi and St. George, will receive more than \$990,000 to undertake natural resource management projects.

Two landholder groups have been working closely with their local Landcare group and the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC) to address local environmental challenges.

QMDC and local Landcare staff have been working with the groups to develop sub-catchment plans as part of QMDC's Sub-Catchment Planning program.

The funds committed by QMDC, from the Australian and Queensland Governments, will be used to help farmers meet the high costs of earthworks, fencing, revegetation, the installation of alternative watering points, and monitoring of salinity.

Spokesperson and CEO for QMDC, Olwyn Crimp, said that, although it sounded like a lot of money, the group was more than meeting this figure with their own commitments of time and money.

"Essentially, we've provided technical and financial support to help the members of the Goondoola Basin and Weengallon groups to more sustainably manage their land, despite the drought," said Olwyn.

"But most of the work is coming from these farmers, with a further \$1,670,000 in costs being met by the group."

Olwyn also said a total of five new groups have recently been approved for funding by QMDC, bringing the number of funded groups across southern Queensland to 22.

"We've been running our Sub-Catchment Planning program since 2000, now, and we've now committed \$6.3 million in 129 contracts to landholders to more sustainably manage land," she said.

QMDC is funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments, through the Natural Heritage Trust, the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality, and the National Landcare Programme.

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