

MEDIA RELEASE

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Yalebone Creek farmers receive \$370 thousand to improve the land

Twelve farmers in the Yalebone Creek region, near Roma, will receive more than \$370,000 to undertake natural resource management projects.

The group has been working closely with local Landcare Coordinator Alexis Wegener, and the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC) to address local environmental challenges.

“The group has been working hard with me and other staff to create a pretty comprehensive sub-catchment plan, as part of QMDC’s Sub-Catchment Planning program,” said Alexis.

“We’ve been getting a lot of advice from staff at both QMDC and state government departments to make sure we can address some local issues, like soil loss and weed management, in the best manner possible,” she said.

The funds, from the Australian and Queensland Governments, will be used to help farmers meet the high costs of earthworks, machinery modifications, and weed control in riparian areas.

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 Yalebone Creek group to more sustainably manage their land, despite the drought,” said Olwyn.

“But most of the work is coming from these farmers.”

Although over \$370,000 has been committed, the group will personally meet further costs of projects to the tune of more than \$600,000, she said.

Olwyn also said that Yalebone Creek was just one of five groups that 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, 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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