

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Soil conservation gets a boost

The future of soil conservation services in the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin has been given a boost with the appointment of two new soil conservation officers in Goondiwindi and Warwick.

The officers are employed by the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC) and will work closely with staff from the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Water (DNRMW).

Rick Kowitz, from the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee said there was a wealth of knowledge amongst staff at DNRMW which had been built up over many years in the field of soil conservation.

“We want to ensure that knowledge which exists within the Department isn’t lost but is transferred to the new soil conservation officers so they can provide a service to landholders into the future,” Mr Kowitz said.

“There is currently a huge demand for soil conservation work being generated through QMDC’s sub-catchment planning groups and we hope the new officers will help us to better meet that demand.”

“However, this will take time, and as an interim measure the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee is looking to utilise private consultants to provide soil conservation services to sub-catchment groups,” he said.

The new soil conservation officers are Vanessa Macdonald, who is based at the Border Rivers Catchment Management and Landcare Centre in Goondiwindi, and Ryan Ellis, who will work from Warwick.

Both officers will work with sub-catchment groups in the areas of contour and waterway design, land capability assessments and other land management issues.

### ENDS

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**Caption:** Doug Muller, from the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Water shares his experience with QMDC Soil Conservation Officer, Vanessa Macdonald.