

MEDIA RELEASE

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Erosion, weeds and remnant vegetation top priorities for QLD Murray-Darling farmers

Combating soil erosion, managing weeds and pests, and protecting remnant vegetation have been high priorities for natural resource management in the Border Rivers and Maranoa-Balonne catchments of southern Queensland.

A recent Performance Report from the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC) revealed these three aspects of natural resource management (NRM) have met with the highest support from landholders for the July to December period of 2005.

In this period, an additional 86,250ha was protected against erosion, 78,770ha became part of weed and pest management programs, and 24,619ha of remnant vegetation was protected, the Report said.

In the six months prior to this report, the revegetation of degraded areas by increasing groundcover was a clear priority for landholders, resulting in 113,495ha of increased groundcover.

“Our most recent report indicates that land managers have met with much success as a result of these projects, and have now moved on to other natural resource issues, like more advanced soil management, and vegetation and biodiversity,” QMDC’s NRM Manager, Mr Geoff Penton, said.

QMDC has provided financial support and technical advice to landholders and shire councils throughout the region to help implement these projects.

“But we’re very much just playing a supporting role,” said Mr Penton.

Approximately \$3 million has so far been committed by QMDC for these types of projects, through the Commonwealth government’s NAP/NHT funding programs.

Mr Penton said that landholders have more than met this amount with their own contributions, though.

“We’ve just helped make these projects happen sooner, providing advice on how to manage our natural assets, and speeding up the process of implementation,” Mr Penton said.

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