

MEDIA RELEASE

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LAUNCH: New technology for local wool industry

Some innovative new tools for wool producers will be officially launched in the Traprock region, near Inglewood, on Friday 21 April this year.

The tools will include a comprehensive sub-catchment plan for all participating landholders, an interactive, web-based vegetation and biodiversity monitoring toolkit, and an Environmental Management System (EMS) for the region's wool industry.

These tools have been developed jointly over the last five years by the Traprock Wool Association (TWA), Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC) and, more recently, the Land Use Research Centre at the University of Southern Queensland (USQ).

TWA and QMDC developed and implemented both the sub-catchment planning process, providing federal government funding (NAP/NHT) to help care for the region's natural resources, and the EMS.

"The EMS was incorporated into the Traprock Integrated Management System, or TIMS, which works extremely well with sub-catchment planning," said Andrew Ferrier, Traprock Wool Association's immediate past president.

A Land, Water and Wool (LWW) research and development grant in 2004 funded TWA to work with USQ to develop the web-based management and monitoring toolkit.

"The web-based toolkit will have two levels of access," QMDC Ecologist and LWW project officer, Greg Ford said.

"Traprock wool growers will be able to log in to their individual areas of the website, to enter property information and monitoring data, analyse individual property trends, and view regional monitoring data

"The general public can access a part of the site that will display generalised biodiversity information over the whole Traprock region," said Mr Ford.

The TIMS program and the web-based management toolkit will be officially launched on Friday 21 April this year by the Hon. Sussan Ley MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, with guest speaker Bobbie Brazil, Chair of Land and Water Australia.

For more information about these monitoring, planning and management tools, please contact QMDC on 07 4637 6201.

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Caption: Rick Goodrich, current Chair of the Traprock Woolgrowers Association, surveys some of his country, undertaking the often difficult task of balancing conservation with production.



Caption: Some of the finest wool in Australia: the Traprock region is excellent for sheep - but, said QMDC Ecologist Greg Ford, it also has high biodiversity value, making it an important natural asset for Queensland.

