

MEDIA RELEASE

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SCP: successfully delivering on-ground results

QMDC, in conjunction with Landcare Coordinators throughout the region, has been providing technical and financial support to landholders to help them assess on-ground problems and come up with their own solutions. With support from NHT and NAPSWQ, QMDC now works with over 600 landholders across 56 sub-catchment groups to address NRM challenges.

Through QMDC's sub-catchment planning (SCP) delivery model, approximately \$3 million in government funding has been committed over the past three years, delivering on-ground results over almost 30% of the region. This figure has been matched by landholders' private contributions, resulting in approximately \$6 million worth of NRM activities across the region.

The SCP process involves all members of a water catchment area, usually based around a common creek or stream. These areas can range in size from 10,000 to 100,000 hectares, depending on the shire or property size, and can include from five to 20 people.

One of the seven Landcare Coordinators QMDC works closely with is Tanya Robinson, based with the Inglewood Landcare Group. "We encourage a group action where landholders are asked to identify and find causes of NRM issues in their area," Tanya explained. "We want them to prioritise what is important for them to control and complete works at a sub-catchment level."

Each sub-catchment group develops its own plan, providing a clear, detailed action plan, budgets and maps along with individual property plans. These plans are then assessed by a panel of landholders across the Border Rivers and Maranoa-Balonne Catchments before approval by the QMDC executive.

One example of SCP can be seen in the Canning Creek group, north-east of Inglewood. Group members John and Ros Dieckmann run a grazing enterprise with brother, Jim, and his wife, Debbie. The Dieckmanns have already done considerable riparian and vegetation fencing to control stock access to local water ways and have recently been approved through the Canning Creek Sub-Catchment Group to undertake more conservation works.

John says the financial and planning assistance provided by Landcare and QMDC is a great help. "We're intending to fence off around 10kms along the headwaters of Mosquito Creek. In these dry years, the stock are always on the creek and by fencing it off we'll have better control over the stock access and easier management of weeds and pests," he said.

"We've also identified a bit of an area at risk of salinity, so we're going to fence that off and revegetate the area with kurrajongs and a range of other native species."

"Finally, we hope to fence off a large area of pristine bush, that contains some fairly unique timber and rock formations, including Mt Bodumba, where we want to exclude stock altogether and preserve it for the long term," John said.

The achievements of the Canning Creek group, and QMDC's 55 other funded sub-catchment groups, are many. As at December 2005:

- 114 466 ha of native pasture management and revegetation of degraded area
- 278 km of conservation earthworks
- 96 770 ha of area protected from soil erosion
- 221 alternative watering points created
- 196 km of riparian zone fencing

- 8 293 ha of waterway stabilisation
- 68.5 km of remnant fencing
- 28 541 ha of remnant vegetation management
- 143 566 ha of weeds managed
- 5 477 ha of revegetation and changed management of land affected by salinity

For more information about sub-catchment planning, please contact QMDC's Toowoomba Office on 07 4637 6201.

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Media contact/s

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Caption: Canning Creek Sub-Catchment Group member, John Dieckmann. Photo: Plaxy Barratt

