

# MEDIA RELEASE



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## Rangers launch into action in Queensland Murray-Darling

A new program being launched in Toowoomba tonight will help boost the sustainability of the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin, protect the environment and increase the community's knowledge about important Aboriginal cultural sites.

QMDC Aboriginal Program Regional Coordinator Tim Knox said nine new Aboriginal Rangers had almost completed a two-week induction course to prepare them for on-ground projects.

"Our Rangers – who will be based in Inglewood, Dirranbandi and St George – have completed training in first aid, chemical application, chainsaw handling, defensive driving and much more," Mr Knox said.

"Everyone is now looking forward to getting into the field and working with landholders and land managers to help manage the environment, combat pest and weed threats, support sustainable agriculture and protect sites of cultural significance."

The Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC), in partnership with the Federal Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, has instigated a long-term program to employ nine Aboriginal Rangers and a coordinator to deliver environmental outcomes as part of the Working on Country Regional program.

The Rangers will work with land managers, regional councils, communities and Traditional Owners to promote Landcare works and protect areas of national environmental and cultural significance within the region.

The QMDC Aboriginal Rangers program will be launched at 7pm at the Toowoomba City Golf Club on Thursday, November 5.

"We already have a number of projects lined up for the Rangers' first week in their districts which is excellent," Mr Knox said.

"The Rangers are available to work with landholders and all types of land managers within the wider community and they will have an important educational role as well.

"Obviously a large part of the focus of the Rangers is on protecting our natural environment and enhancing the sustainability of the region's industries and communities but they will also play a vital role in telling the stories of important cultural sites and the history of Aboriginal people in the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin.

"We have some truly magnificent cultural sites ranging from grinding grooves to meeting places and the Traditional Owners are keen for these sites to be protected and their history and importance preserved for future generations."

Mr Knox said the Rangers would help implement QMDC's Regional Natural Resource Management Plan and the QMDC Aboriginal Program's Caring for Country Plan, developed in conjunction with the eight Traditional Owner groups in the region.

The Ranger program with QMDC is one of 18 Working on Country Regional projects. The Australian Government is funding these projects to employ Indigenous rangers to manage land and sea country across a variety of tenures, in partnership with management agencies, non-government organisations and private landholders.

### **Media contact/s**

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**Photographs of the Ranger team are available upon request.**