

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Saltbush planted to combat salinity

Over 300,000 saltbush seedlings have been planted over five days near Goondiwindi in an attempt to ease salinity risk in the Goondoola Basin.

Paul Southern planted the seedlings on his property, "Lyolia", between Goondiwindi and St. George last week as part of an Envirofund project with the Waroo-Balonne Landcare Group.

Paul and Melissa Southern took over "Lyolia" in 2002, and, since then, have planted more than 900 hectares of improved pasture and established 50 hectares of saltbush.

Paul is a member of the Goondoola Sub-Catchment Group (SCG), which was originally formed by a small group of landholders concerned about a major salinity outbreak on their properties within the Goondoola Basin. "Members of the Goondoola SCG see successful establishment of deep rooted species as the key to managing dry land salinity on their properties," said Paul.

John Scriven, Waroo-Balonne Landcare Coordinator, said that the Waroo-Balonne Landcare Group felt it was important to support Paul's current saltbush planting. "It was important that we worked in partnership with Paul to secure funding from Envirofund to help us work towards significant positive change in the landscape."

Kathryn Minehan, Regional Salinity Officer with the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC), said that QMDC will be encouraging landholders across the region to better manage the salinity risk by tackling the issue at a landscape level, and has been working with the Queensland and Federal governments to ensure continued long-term support for these types of projects.

"QMDC is also working with the Department of Natural Resources and Water to better understand salinity risk in the Border Rivers and Maranoa-Balonne catchments," she said.

"The findings of the Salinity Risk Assessment project, in particular, will help us to provide better advice to landholders, like the Southern, to manage salinity in areas where symptoms are visible and to mitigate risk in areas where landscape properties and land use change create a potential for salinity outbreak."

For more information, please contact QMDC's Goondiwindi office on 07 4671 7900, or John Scriven on 07 4625 3634.

**ENDS**

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Paul Southern checks soil moisture for his crop



The saltbush seedlings



Planting the saltbush seedlings

For electronic copies of these images, please contact Pip Bagshaw on 07 4671 7900, or [pipb@qmdc.org.au](mailto:pipb@qmdc.org.au)