



Media Release

Thursday, 23rd April, 2009

STUDENTS HELP RESTORE LONGFORD'S MILL DAM RESERVE

The next stage of a project to improve the popular Mill Dam recreation area at Longford is underway.

Students from the Deloraine High School are assisting with the project by planting more than two thousand native trees, grasses and shrubs.

The work follows the removal of crack willows and rubbish along the reserve section of the Macquarie River bank and the installation of fences to define paddock grazing and recreation areas.

Deloraine High School Landcare coordinator, Brendon Fenner, said the students were keen to help out.

"We are pleased to be able to get involved in a project which will benefit the community.

"It has been a valuable exercise for the students because they have learnt how to grow trees from seed and care for them right up until they are planted." Mr Fenner said.

The project is being supported by the Australian Government's Envirofund and owners of the Longford meat processing plant Swift Australia Southern Pty, which owns land adjacent to the Mill Dam Reserve.

NRM North's Northern Midlands facilitator, Marta Vergara-Godoy, said enhancing the existing public open spaces would make the Mill Dam Reserve a nicer place to visit.

"The work will help bring the natural values back to the area and enhance water quality by removing woody weeds along the South Esk River and replanting with flood tolerant species." Ms Vergara-Godoy said.

The project has the support of the Northern Midlands Council.

Ends

For more information contact:

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****INTERVIEW/PHOTO OPPORTUNITY:** Students will be onsite planting trees TODAY between 10am and 1pm. Marta Vergara-Godoy and Melissa Lewarn from NRM North will be available for interview between 10am – 11.30am.

Directions: Turn right into Tannery Road just past the intersection into Longford. Follow the road to a cattle guard where a gravel road starts. Drive for another 600 metres until you reach the parking site adjacent to the weir.