



Media Release

Monday, December 15th, 2008

RESTORATION WORK STARTS AT LONGFORD'S MILL DAM

Work has started to improve the popular Mill Dam recreation area at Longford.

A project is underway to remove weeds and rubbish and install fences in the area to define paddock grazing and recreation areas.

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

The Northern Midlands NRM North Facilitator, Marta Vergara-Godoy said the program would make the Mill Dam area a more enjoyable place to visit.

"The works program will protect the riparian environmental values along the South Esk River and enhance water quality by removing woody weeds and the replanting of flood tolerant species.

"We are confident this project will enhance the existing public open spaces in the area and encourage members of the community to participate." Ms Vergara-Godoy said.

The Northern Midlands Council has endorsed the project and will administer the works in conjunction with Swift Australia Southern Pty.

The Mayor Kim Polley said the community would greatly benefit from the work.

"It will help bring the natural values back to the area and make the Mill Dam a more enjoyable and orderly space for all to share."

Green Corps Australia has provided voluntary work over a two week period.

Ends

****PHOTO/FILM OPPORTUNITY:** Volunteers and contractors will be working on site **TODAY** from 9am. The main focus is the removal of willows.

Directions:

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

For more information contact:

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