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## **SCHOLARSHIP WINNER APPOINTED TO EXPANDED ROLE IN WALGETT**

The inaugural recipient of the Russel Harland Memorial Scholarship, Matt Goulton, today begins full-time work at the Walgett office of the Western Catchment Management Authority (CMA).

Matt's appointment marks an increase in service from the Western CMA to the community of the Walgett area. Chair of the Western CMA, Rory Treweeke, says the Community Support Officer role has been increased from a part-time to a full-time position.

"The Community Support Officer position was previously filled by Tanya Muccillo who shared her time between the Western and Namoi CMAs," Mr Treweeke said.

"Tanya has now transferred to Namoi and we wish her all the best for the future. We have decided to expand the Community Support Officer role to a full-time position to provide a more comprehensive service to people living in the Walgett area of the Western Catchment and I congratulate Matt on his appointment.

"The amount of interest and on-ground work generated through our incentive programs to improve natural resources and working with landholders to negotiate Property Vegetation Plans, which are used to manage native vegetation, has necessitated the appointment of a full-time staff member. Matt will also be undertaking some of the land management implementation associated with capping and piping artesian bores through the Next Steps program," he said.

Matt is no stranger to Walgett, having spent time in the town on paid work-placement periods during university holidays as part of the Scholarship program.

Matt graduated with a Bachelor of Applied Science in Parks, Recreation and Heritage Areas from Charles-Sturt University in Albury and found the Russel Harland Scholarship provided a number of benefits.

"My time with the Western CMA so far has been very positive," Mr Goulton said.

"It has been a great learning opportunity and has introduced me to many great places and even greater people," he said.

The 26-year-old is originally from the small town of Conondale in Queensland and says he is looking forward to returning to smaller community when he commences his placement in Walgett.

"I'm definitely more of a country-town person, coming from a small place in Queensland," Mr Goulton said.

"After living in Albury for the past few years, I am looking forward to living in a smaller town, with less traffic and noise and all the benefits of living in a close community.



# MEDIA RELEASE



As the Community Support Officer for the Western CMA, Matt will often be a first point of call for landholders and community members contacting the organisation.

"I'm looking forward to getting to know the local people and the area better and working with local people to help them make on-ground improvements to the natural resources in their area," he said.

The Western CMA reminds university students with an interest in far-western NSW to apply for this year's \$5,000 Russel Harland Memorial Scholarship before the January 31 deadline. Visit the Western CMA's website for more information at [www.western.cma.nsw.gov.au](http://www.western.cma.nsw.gov.au)

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For further information

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Caption: Matt Goulton of the Western CMA.

