Transcript

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

A day in the life of a water warrior

**Madeline Gorham:**

My name is Madeline Gorham and I am a water delivery officer for the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office. A water delivery officer works with stakeholders in the field and other water holders in order to deliver government held environmental water to wetlands and rivers.

We’re just coming out of the biggest droughts in history and we’re seeing the landscape green up and what we were able to achieve with environmental water during those dry times is populations maintaining and so in times of really good times like now where the rain is coming we’re able to see those populations really thrive because they were able to hold on during the dryer times.

**Michele Groat:**

Hi I’m Michele Groat and I work for the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office as a local engagement officer or commonly known as a LEO. At the moment a typical day for me is quite different because of COVID so we’re doing a lot of where we would have been doing a lot of face to face meetings mainly now its through the screen and Microsoft Team Manager and zoom sort of meetings but we still get to get out in the catchment area so it might be meeting with a farmer to talk about the possibility of getting some water into a wetland that’s on his property. Sometimes it’s just going around the actual catchment and having a look about looking at all the different wetlands seeing what sort of condition they are in. Do they need water in the next year, can they wait another few years. What water levels are in certain wetlands, will it promote bird breeding that sort of thing.

**Madeline Gorham:**

One of the great things about this job is we are out in the community, we’re able to speak to other environmental water holders, we can speak to other water agencies and we can speak to the landholders on the ground to really know what’s happening and we are that community, we live in the community so we know what it is to share water and how important it is.

**Michele Groat:**

I don’t think the farming industry actually gets the recognition they deserve for being the environmental stewards most of them are. There’s so many of them that have habitat on their farm that they usually are very aware of. They protect and they maintain so they’re really easy to work with because we’re all chasing the same goal. I think they realise that they want to pass this legacy onto their family so it’s got to be sustainable and that’s exactly what we are trying to do in the environment.

Yea I love my job and I’m really proud of what our organisation does. I don’t think you can have a healthy or sustainable environment without farming and I don’t think you can have productive and healthy sustainable agriculture without the environment so for both of them to start working together is a really great thing and I’m proud of my role.

**Madeline Gorham:**

Water management hasn’t been smooth sailing, but I think in 50 years from now we will look back and realise that we were a part of something that really did save the Murray-Darling Basin.