

MEDIA RELEASE

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QUEENSLAND
**MURRAY-
DARLING**
COMMITTEE



Mt Howe graziers on track toward district fire plan

Graziers in the Mt Howe district made significant progress toward developing the first ever group fire plan in the Maranoa at a recent Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC) field day. (Held on Friday, May 16).

The gathering of 12 land managers at 'Glendonell' north-west of Injune was part of a five-year Fire Project QMDC is running to document and inform the use of fire as a management tool in the Maranoa region.

The group of neighbours spent the day inspecting fire demonstration sites on 'Glendonell', talking about fire plans for the coming season and hearing presentations from QMDC, EcoRich Grazing, the Rural Fire Service and the CSIRO.

QMDC Climate Change Officer Rhonda Toms-Morgan said a highlight was the group developing a framework for the region's first ever Strategic Fire Plan specifically for the Mt Howe area.

"One of the aims of this project is to help land managers develop local fire plans so that they are better informed about when, where and why to burn," Ms Toms-Morgan said.

"There was a high level of input and great enthusiasm to get the bones of a plan together in terms of what they believed it needed to include and the purpose of putting it together. One aspect they were keen to develop included their own recommendations on how to burn the different land types they have on their own properties."

Ms Toms-Morgan said the group made good use of the expertise available on the day while taking ownership of the process.

"We had guest speakers from the Rural Fire Service demonstrating some of their weather monitoring equipment and the support they can offer landholders when it comes time to burn.

"We also had a presentation from CSIRO GISERA regarding an ant survey they are conducting in the area to monitor fire's impact on biodiversity which will be of great use to our Fire Project," she said.

The 'Landscape Fire Planning for Poplar Box Grassy Woodlands Project' is supported by QMDC through funding from the Australian Government.

The project aims to gather existing knowledge on fire use, apply science to fill knowledge gaps and ultimately build fire management plans with local graziers. It will document how graziers are using fire as a management tool and how practices are impacting on production, biodiversity and carbon.

For more information contact Rhonda-Toms-Morgan on 4620 4607 or visit www.qmdc.org.au

Media contact/s

**More information: QMDC Climate Change Officer Rhonda Toms-Morgan, ph 0428 759 235
Released by: QMDC Regional Communications Officer Donna Hurley, ph 4637 6288**