

# MEDIA RELEASE

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"Working together – healthy landscapes, viable communities"



## Valuable ecosystems get a boost

Nine landholders from the southern Brigalow Belt bioregion have received \$380,000 to manage 4,500 hectares of high value remnant vegetation for the next 10 years.

Twelve 10 year agreements have been signed as part of the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee's (QMDC) Bush Tender scheme, funded through the Australian Government's *Maintaining Australia's Biodiversity Hotspots* program.

Bush Tender project manager, QMDC's Kate Steel, said that the scheme had been very successful. "The great success of this project is that land managers are paid to manage the sometimes forgotten aspects of production – that is a healthy functioning natural ecosystem, and that is something that we all need to live," she said.

"This is the third time QMDC has run a competitive incentive scheme targeting biodiversity management, and we had the highest number of applicants so far," she said.

Thirty-five bids were submitted and assessed earlier this year, after a call was put out last December.

"About 4,500 hectares of really valuable ecosystems will now be managed, not just locked up, for the next 10 years," said Kate.

"This funding will support a range of management activities, including low to zero stock grazing, weed and pest control, fire management and long-term monitoring of ecosystem change," she said.

Bush Tender was run as a commercial tender, where willing landholders entered bids based on the costs of managing areas of Brigalow and Poplar box for protection and improvement.

"We were very happy with the outcome of the Bush Tender, so QMDC will be looking for resources to run consecutive Bush Tenders into the future," said Kate.

If landholders would like to be notified about future Bush Tenders, please contact QMDC's Toowoomba office on 07 4637 6270.

**ENDS**

### Media contact/s

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## **Image**



Caption: high quality remnant Brigalow (pictured) and Poplar box vegetation was the target of QMDC's Bush Tender scheme, which was recently completed in the southern Brigalow Belt of Queensland.



Caption: the area covered by QMDC's Bush Tender scheme.

For a high resolution copy of the image, please contact Amelia Radford on 07 4637 6234, or [ameliar@qmdc.org.au](mailto:ameliar@qmdc.org.au).