

MEDIA RELEASE



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"Working together – healthy landscapes, viable communities"

Pasture field day at Roma will boost resource management outcomes

Producers who are keen to learn more about their pasture options to improve their natural resource management and productivity outcomes will have their chance at a field day near Roma on Thursday, December 11.

Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC) Grazing Lands Coordinator Sid Cook said the field day, a collaborative effort between QMDC, the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F) and Landcare, would cover issues such as pasture selection and management in the Maranoa.

"Pasture management is the key to longer term production and sustainability and we know producers are keen to find out how to not only halt land decline but improve their pastures for the future," Dr Cook said.

"Research has shown that boosting groundcover from 20 per cent to 70 per cent can reduce water runoff from 160mm down to 10mm a year and obviously this has major beneficial impacts such as reducing erosion and increasing water infiltration and storage in the soil, all of which leads to better pasture growth."

Speakers on the day include DPI&F Grazing Lands principal extension officer Col Paton and Plant Science principal experimentalist Brian Johnson on topics including revegetating old cultivation and grass and legume variety selection.

"We will illustrate the importance of selecting the right pasture species for soil and climate as well as the benefit of resource management in maintaining production and ground cover and attendees will be able to see first hand the varieties and techniques which have been successful in this catchment," Dr Cook said.

The field day starts at the Packer family's "Kurrajong" 120km from Roma on the Southern Road at 8.30am on Thursday, December 11 and will move onto the Johnson family's "Coogoon" later in the day. RSVP for catering to Angela Betts on 4620 4600.

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