

MEDIA RELEASE



December 16, 2008

"Working together – healthy landscapes, viable communities"

Governor to open new QMDC facility in Roma

The Queensland Governor, Ms Penelope Wensley AO, will open the new Queensland Murray-Darling Committee facility in Roma on Friday, December 19.

QMDC chief executive officer Geoff Penton said the new facility embodied the Queensland Governor's interest in natural resource management and landcare matters.

"Our new Maranoa Balonne Landcare and Catchment Centre will include a resource library for students, teachers, landholders and environmentally conscious people from throughout the catchment as pursue their studies or simply aim to expand their knowledge," Mr Penton said.

"The Queensland Murray-Darling Committee was established in 1992 to support community members throughout the region manage their natural resources sustainably.

"At the moment, this work includes invaluable partnerships with six local governments, more than 800 landholders, nine landcare groups, eight Traditional Owner groups, more than 20 schools and a number of research and industry groups to effect wide-scale sustainable natural resource management across the four million hectares of the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin."

Mr Penton said such was the demand for its services, QMDC had outgrown its Roma facility and had taken the opportunity to expand its office to provide the community with more access to the vital resources provided by the organisation.

"Specific natural resources targeted by QMDC include land and soils, water, riverine, floodplains and wetlands, weeds and pest animal management, and vegetation and biodiversity," he said.

"QMDC also offers education and training programs to help increase the knowledge of regional communities to manage their natural resources sustainably and this includes providing field days, education forums and workshops to community members through resources provided by the Queensland and Australian governments."

Mr Penton said there was an ever increasing awareness of the importance of natural resource issues in the community consciousness.

"Her Excellency has a particular interest in the environment and sustainable development and these are certainly shared by the wider community of the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin," he said.

"We are honoured Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AO, Governor of Queensland, will open our centre, particularly in her role as a promoter of community cohesion with a special emphasis on encouraging mutual respect and confidence in the community."

Her Excellency the Governor of Queensland Ms Penelope Wensley, AO will open the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee Maranoa Balonne Catchment Centre at 14 McDowall Street, Roma at 12.30pm on Friday, December 19.

Media contacts

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