

MEDIA RELEASE

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Origin Energy: teaching kids to manage our land for the future

Sixty-five students from Stanthorpe, Warwick, Toowoomba and Roma participated in the third annual Property Planning field day and competition, last week.

On 30 and 31 July, students, teachers, and technical staff travelled to Origin Energy's Spring Gully property, north of Roma, to learn about a wide range of land management practices designed to ensure the long-term sustainability of a rural enterprise.

Organised and hosted by local natural resource management group, the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC), the event gave senior agriculture students some insight into the long term planning involved in management a rural enterprise.

QMDC's Education Officer, Pam Fisher, said that students would now put together management proposals for Spring Gully as part of the Property Planning competition, which would be judged later in the year.

"Going to Spring Gully gave the students a much broader scope for their Property Plans," said Pam.

"For the first time we have had the assistance of Traditional Owners, as well as the unique environment of a gas exploration site.

"These new considerations will allow students to expand on their normal course work and look outside the normal scope of agriculture," she said.

QMDC technical staff conducted a range of presentation and training sessions for students over the course of the two days, with a welcome for all participants being given by Colin Hewitt of the Hewitt Cattle Company, who holds the grazing rights to Spring Gully.

"When I make a management decision here, there are three entities that must be considered: the Hewitt Cattle Company, Origin Energy and the land itself," said Colin as he gave advice to the students about the real world management of a property.

Origin Energy Community Liaison Supervisor, Meryl Eddie, said "while Origin's main focus at Spring Gully is gas production, it is important to manage our rural properties sustainably."

"It will be very exciting to read the student's reports and assess their property plans."

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Media contact/s

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Images

Caption: some of the students met with local cattleman Colin Hewitt at the Property Planning field day at 'Spring Gully' last week



For high resolution images, please contact Pam Fisher on 07 4622 2993, or pamf@qmdc.org.au