

MEDIA RELEASE

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New studies into Yelarbon's desert

Surveys on flora and fauna common to the Spinifex vegetation around the Yelarbon district will be conducted with local farmers and the Waggamba Shire Council from 6 to 10 March.

The Queensland Murray-Darling Committee has partnered with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and the Queensland Herbarium to undertake these surveys to develop a better understanding of the values of this ecosystem.

"This region of Spinifex vegetation is a rare and unique part of the western Downs," Alison Goodland, QMDC Grassy Ecosystem Biodiversity Officer, said.

Ms Goodland said that Spinifex-dominated areas had been overlooked by research efforts to date and little was known about which flora and fauna species rely on this ecosystem.

The surveys will be conducted in consultation with farmers and Shire Council staff, using their experience and practical knowledge, to help develop sound management strategies to preserve the area.

The study will conclude with a community meeting at the Yelarbon Anglican Church Hall on 10 March at 9:30am.

The meeting will include presentations of survey results by Rod Fensham (Queensland Herbarium) and Rod Hobson (Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services), as well as a field walk through the Yelarbon Desert.

For more information about the survey, to be involved with the project, or to attend the meeting, please contact Alison Goodland, on 07 4637 6286 or 0438 761 214.

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