

MEDIA RELEASE

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“Get paid to increase your veg and biodiversity value”

Financial incentives for managing vegetation are being offered to landholders in the Balonne, Weir and Moonie catchments in the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee’s second ‘Bush Tender’.

Project Coordinator for Bush Tender 2006, Emma Taylor, said “QMDC’s Bush Tender aims to enhance the management of vegetation and biodiversity across specific areas of the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin.”

“This financial incentive will help to retain and manage vegetation not currently protected under the Vegetation Management Act,” she said.

Emma said that, although most communities seemed to value the environment, landholders have traditionally been the people responsible for managing areas of valuable vegetation.

“QMDC’s Bush Tender recognises that there are costs associated with managing these areas and is providing funding to offset the costs that are usually borne by landholders,” she said.

“Involvement in the project is totally voluntary and landholders in the target area with more than 10 ha of native vegetation not mapped on regional ecosystem maps will be eligible to participate,” said Emma.

“The first step to participating in the project will be to complete a simple Expression of Interest form. We will then contact applicants to find out more information about their vegetation and discuss management options,” she said.

The project will run as a commercial tender where landholders enter bids based on the costs of managing the area, as well as the value of their vegetation to overall biodiversity health in that area.

Information sessions about the project and how to apply will be held throughout the three catchments in early August. Expressions of Interest will close on 25 August, and landholders can contact Emma on 07 4623 3478, or access www.qmdc.org.au for more information.

QMDC’s Bush Tender is funded through the federal government’s National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality.

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Media contact/s

Released by:

Amelia Radford, Communications Officer, QMDC, 07 4637 6234

More information:

Emma Taylor, Project Coordinator, 07 4623 3478

Lyn Pullen, Regional Coordinator for Vegetation & Biodiversity, QMDC, 0427 500 184

Caption: The management of valuable areas of vegetation like this has often been the responsibility of landholders. QMDC’s Bush Tender 2006 will try to help make conservation more realistic for landholders.



Photo courtesy of Alison Goodland, QMDC



File photo courtesy of QMDC

For electronic copies of these photos, please contact Amelia Radford on 07 4637 6234.