

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Find out what your vegetation is worth

Information sessions for landholders interested in Bush Tender 2006 will be held across the Balonne, Weir and Moonie River catchments in August.

Bush Tender 2006, a Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC) project, will provide landholders in the area with cash incentives to help manage vegetation not currently protected under the Vegetation Management Act.

Project Coordinator, Emma Taylor said the project would be for landholders who were committed to maintaining areas of vegetation for the biodiversity benefits to their property and the overall landscape.

“The funding will be to offset the costs associated with managing these areas for biodiversity outcomes,” she said.

Successful applicants from the pilot Bush Tender (2005), Warren and Lynelle Urquhart, said the incentive was very worthwhile.

“We are here for the long term and know that by managing sustainably we will keep our resources in good shape. But it seems to be getting financially harder to do that,” they said.

QMDC’s Bush Tender provided a flexible and voluntary program through which the Urquharts were able to access financial and technical support.

The Urquharts said they saw the Bush Tender as an opportunity to achieve some of their own conservation goals, and will use the money to replace 60 year old fences, better controlling weed and animal impacts on their vegetation.

Emma Taylor said QMDC would run five information sessions to help explain how this new type of funding would work, and what benefits it had for landholders.

“A tender of this nature asks landholders to compete for funding based on the biodiversity value of the vegetation and the management actions they wish to implement. Basically, this allows communities to buy (through tax dollars) increased biodiversity, and many other natural resource outcomes from landholders,” she said.

Information Sessions will be held throughout the eligible area:

- **Goondiwindi** – 12.30pm, 2 August, Border Rivers CMA meeting, Training & Technology Centre
- **Moonie** – 3pm, 2 August, Moonie Sports Centre
- **Surat** – 10am, 7 August, the Royal Hotel
- **St George** – 3pm, 7 August, Balonne Skills Centre
- **Goondiwindi** – 1.30pm, 10 August, Waggamba Landcare meeting, Training & Technology Centre

Expressions of Interest will close 25 August, and landholders can contact Emma on 07 4623 3478, or access [www.qmdc.org.au](http://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.

**ENDS**

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**Caption:** The Urquhart family applied for the pilot Bush Tender project last year. They say the project will help them enhance the long-term sustainability of their property, near Moonie, and protect their lifestyle for future generations.



For an electronic copy of this photo, please contact Amelia Radford on 07 4637 6234.