

MEDIA RELEASE



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"Working together – healthy landscapes, viable communities"

Carp Buster 2009 continues in Surat at Easter

For those keen to drop in a line on the Easter long weekend, the Surat Fishing and Restocking Club has a great event for you: Carp Buster 2009.

Carp Buster Coordinator Nikki Pilcher said the Surat competition on Saturday and Sunday, April 11 and 12 was the second of a six-event series to raise awareness of the impact of exotic fish and weeds in waterways across the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin.

"The 2009 series is supported by the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC) and the six fishing clubs involved are offering a prize pool of \$3000 with points awarded for the number of carp caught as well as the number of events entered," Ms Pilcher said.

QMDC Weed & Pest Animal Technical Officer Lavinnia Fiedler said it was important to raise awareness of the range of issues associated with the decline of native fish populations.

"Erosion, salinity, riparian clearing, contaminated run off (chemical, storm water), de-snagging (loss of fish habitat), introduced pest species (weeds and animals), dams and weirs (impacting fish passage), irrigation, fouling of the water by introduced animals, urban pollution and illegal fishing all impact on our native fish," she said.

"Carp are a high-profile introduced pest and this fishing series is a great way for us to raise awareness about all of the issues impacting on the health of our rivers."

Ms Fiedler said while managing the impacts of carp was important, it should not be considered in isolation from other water management issues.

"Pest fish are just one of many factors which influence water quality and aquatic biodiversity but the good news is we can all help, whether it's by taking our rubbish away with us when we camp, abiding by bag limits and sizes, or protecting habitat in our riparian areas."

Ms Pilcher said almost 300 anglers lined up for the first of the 2009 events in Thallon in March, catching more than 300 carp.

The remaining dates for the 2009 series are:

- Surat Carp Buster – April 11-12
- Goondiwindi Carp Buster – April 25-26
- Mungindi Carp Buster – August 22-23
- St George Carp Buster – September 26-27
- Dirranbandi Carp Buster – October 17-18.

For more information about the series, contact Nikki Pilcher on 0428 981 224 or for more about the Surat competition contact Surat Fishing and Restocking Club president Greg Richardson on 0427 265 800.

Media contacts

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