

# MEDIA RELEASE



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"Working together – healthy landscapes, viable communities"

## Success for Surat Carp Buster event

There are now more than 130 less carp in the Balonne River and more than 200 anglers and their families are better informed about how to maintain riparian health and encourage native fish populations after the latest 2009 Carp Buster Series fishing event in Surat.

Carp Buster Coordinator Nikki Pilcher said the second event of the series was a resounding success with 139 carp caught by anglers from as far away as the Gold Coast, all undeterred by the wet weather during the Easter long weekend.

"The Surat Fishing and Restocking Club hosted the event on Saturday and Sunday, April 11 and 12, with anglers working a 20km stretch of river to catch about 140kg of carp," Ms Pilcher said.

"The biggest carp caught on the weekend was 4.65kg and 70.3cm long but the average was a much more manageable 1kg which was good news for our 88 junior anglers.

"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."

Along with a great family weekend, each competition is an important opportunity to raise awareness of the range of issues associated with the decline of native fish populations, according to QMDC Weed & Pest Animal Technical Officer Lavinnia Fiedler.

"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.

"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."

The remaining dates for the 2009 series are:

- 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 visit [www.qmdc.org.au](http://www.qmdc.org.au)

### **Media contacts**

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**Note: Photographs available upon request.**