

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **QMDC offers chance to boost weed fighting skills in Goondiwindi**

Landholders in the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin will have new weed control skills after a series of field days, including one at Goondiwindi on May 26, detail the best ways to tackle existing weed infestations and provide information about preventing future outbreaks.

Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC) Weed & Pest Animal Technical Officer Renee Stephenson said the field day would provide landholders and others dealing with existing or potential weed infestations with useful information and skills.

“The field day is designed to provide participants with practical information on the weeds in this area as well as an opportunity to test weed control equipment they may not have used before such as a Quickspray unit or brush cutter,” Ms Stephenson said.

“The field day will include information on weeds specific to the Goondiwindi area including *Harrisia Cactus*, *Mother of Millions* and *African Boxthorn*.”

Ms Stephenson said the Goondiwindi Regional Council would provide an update on the progress of the Blueprint for the Bush *Harrisia* Control Program.

“Work under the *Harrisia Cactus* program has been happening across the former Waggamba Shire area and field day participants can take a closer look at the Brigalow Creek Reserve where Council trialled the use of competitive pasture and shading to prevent the pest re-establishing,” she said.

“John Conroy from Biosecurity Queensland will discuss chemical trials and other research currently underway into *Harrisia Cactus*.”

“The day will include information on prevention and control measures suitable for a range of species, such as a washdown demonstration by Biosecurity Queensland’s John Conroy and weed control techniques from Dow AgroSciences Kevin Melmeth.”

Topics and speakers include: knowing your weeds (QMDC’s Renee Stephenson), application techniques (Dow AgroSciences’ Kevin Melmeth), update of *Harrisia cactus* chemical trials and a wash down demonstration (Biosecurity Queensland’s John Conroy) and the *Harrisia* control program (Goondiwindi Regional Council’s Jason Quinnell).

Other field days in this series are scheduled for Miles on Wednesday, May 20, Roma on Thursday, May 21, Mitchell on Friday, May 22 and Goondiwindi on Tuesday, May 26.

To register for the days or find out more about QMDC’s pest and weed activities, contact Renee Stephenson on 4671 7900.

### **Media contact**

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