

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Native fish showcase in the Queensland Murray-Darling

Work underway to boost native fish populations across the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin will be given a national spotlight next week.

The Queensland Murray-Darling Committee's Paul Webb said the annual Native Fish Strategy tour focussed on a different section of the Murray-Darling each year.

"An initiative of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority, the Native Fish Strategy aims to boost the numbers of native fish across the system," he said.

"Here in the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin we have a host of activities to not only help native fish thrive but that also educate our communities about the importance of overall riverine health.

"This year, there will be events in the Toowoomba, Dalby, Warwick, Goondiwindi, Texas and Dirranbandi areas as part of the Native Fish Strategy tour.

"As well as keen interest and work from recreational groups such as the fishing clubs involved in monitoring, restocking and awareness raising activities such as the Carp Buster 2009 fishing series, landholders in the region also work to protect the riverine environment from stock and pollutants from cropping run-off.

"Improved grazing land management, conservation tillage, contouring and riparian rehabilitation projects are just some of the activities being undertaken on many properties in the catchment. These works significantly reduce stream sediment loads and also improve in-stream habitats for native fish."

QMDC is supporting the tour at the Glenlyon Dam near Stanthorpe on May 26 and 27 where there is vital work underway on the Murray Cod. And at Dirranbandi on May 27, QMDC Aboriginal Program Regional Coordinator Tim Knox will outline the possible role of Aboriginal Rangers in natural resource management, including riverine work.

"Importantly, the tour includes a number of school visits with a *Bringing back native fish* presentation where we discuss how important it is to look after the whole river so our native fish can thrive," Mr Webb said.

"And just this week a series of River Walk signs have been erected around Goondiwindi as part of the Border Rivers Demonstration Reach project. This project supports the rehabilitation of selected sections of the rivers to increase native fish populations and outlines the positive impact communities can have."

Mr Webb said the tour, attended by members of the Native Fish Strategy Community Stakeholder Task Force, would be a chance to share knowledge and experiences for the benefit of the entire system.

"These tours allow task force members, including scientists, government representatives and other stakeholders, a first hand look at the on-ground work carried out by various regional groups and organisations who work together to improve the Basin's natural resources," he said.

Native Fish Awareness Week promotes the Murray-Darling Basin Authority's Native Fish Strategy, which aims to bring back native fish populations to 60 per cent of estimated pre-European settlement levels within 50 years.

Other events in Queensland as part of the tour include a community forum at the Goondiwindi Bowls Club on May 27 from 5.30pm and a range of activities elsewhere in both Queensland and New South Wales.

### **Media contact**

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