

MEDIA RELEASE

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Students build skills in property management: QMDC

It was a day out in the fresh air with a purpose for high school agriculture and geography students from across southern Queensland on May 26.

More than 60 students took up the challenge to design a working property management plan for a farm as part of the Property Planning program offered by the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC).

QMDC Education Officer Renee Fletcher said the field day held during Natural Resources Awareness week was just one part of the process for the students.

“The Property Planning program takes students through the steps involved in developing a property management plan,” Ms Fletcher said.

“To complete the plan, the students had to take into consideration all of the natural resource assets on the property and then judge the health of those assets, as well as any possible future threats.

“For example, at ‘Googoorewon’ near Allora on May 26, the students assessed and monitored riverine environments, soil health, cultural heritage values, weed management and biodiversity values.

“The final step of the plan is to create a management strategy based on their assessment of the resources and the landholder’s overall goals for their enterprise.”

Property owner Dawn Heath believes the program is a great opportunity for students to develop their abilities in holistic property management.

“The skills gained by the students in property planning are a vital part of property management and help to address natural and cultural resource issues at a property and catchment scale,” Ms Heath said.

“It doesn’t matter if your property is a smaller lifestyle block or a large broadacre cropping or grazing operation, property planning is a vital step toward sustainability and economic security.”

Schools involved in the day included Stanthorpe State High School, Warwick State High School, Downlands College and St Saviour’s College.

“It is professionally rewarding to be involved with other professionals (industry and teachers) from both a knowledge and a pedagogical point of view,” Stanthorpe State High School’s Tony Heading said.

QMDC is a natural resource management (NRM) organisation that supports communities across a large section of the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin to improve the management of the region’s natural resources.

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Photograph:

QMDC030609: High school students from across southern Queensland gather at “Googoorewon” Allora to learn how to create a property plan.