

MEDIA RELEASE



June 19, 2009

"Working together – healthy landscapes, viable communities"

Mining and regrowth on QMDC member meeting agenda

The Queensland Murray-Darling Committee wants its organisational and landholder members to help develop a policy response to mining and energy industry activities in the Murray-Darling Basin.

"The impact of extractive industries on the Basin's natural resources will be one of the big agenda items at our next member meeting in Moonie on Friday, July 3," QMDC Chief Executive Officer Geoff Penton said.

"QMDC is not averse to extractive industries if issues surrounding biodiversity, water quality, riverine/wetland impacts, salinity, land use and weeds can be effectively managed, mitigated or preferably avoided.

"We hope to receive a wide range of input into a document, which will hopefully be used not just by QMDC but also other organisations as we grapple with addressing the potential impacts of the mining and energy sectors on the Basin's natural resources."

Mr Penton said as well as mining, the meeting would also be a chance to discuss QMDC's position on the current moratorium on endangered regrowth in Queensland.

"We support revising some key elements of what was proposed in the original draft Regional Vegetation Management Plan; that is, we want to see vegetation management at a regional level," he said.

"This would allow landholders and land managers in the same sub-catchment to take a 'no net loss' approach by retaining regrowth in one area to offset development in another."

QMDC officers will also provide information on landscape-wide feral animal management, the *Harrisia* Cactus control program at Goondiwindi, our Learning through Landcare activities and the QMDC strategic plan at the meeting.

"Our organisation has a range of activities and initiatives to not only directly help improve and maintain our natural resources but to also boost the capacity of the communities within the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin," Mr Penton said.

QMDC holds several meetings each year to give member organisations and community representatives a chance to have direct contact with QMDC executive members to help build policies and direction for the future.

The meeting will be held at the Moonie Sports Club from 10am-2pm on Friday, July 3. Please RSVP for catering purposes to (07) 4637 6200 by June 25.

Media contacts

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