

MEDIA RELEASE



August 6th, 2009

"Working together – healthy landscapes, viable communities"

Mungindi to host local Carp Busters

Anglers around Mungindi will be readying their lines and tackle boxes in preparation for the annual Carp Busters. Hosted by the Mungindi Fishing Club, the community event is to be held on the 22nd and 23rd of August. Participants need to register at Yarramilldi, which is 25km from Mungindi on the Mungindi-Tallwood road.

The Mungindi competition is to be the fourth of six 'Carp Busting' events held across the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin that aim to raise awareness of the impact of exotic fish, weeds and a range of other factors that influence water quality.

"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," said Carp Buster coordinator Nikki Pilcher.

"The last event, held in Goondiwindi in April this year, attracted 200 anglers, with around 256 carp caught over the two day period", said Ms Pilcher.

"These Carp Buster events not only allow us to raise the awareness of the introduced fish carp, but to highlight a host of other issues surrounding the degradation of our river and creek systems and reasons for native fish declines", said QMDC Weeds and 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.

Ms Fiedler said while managing the impacts of carp was important, it should not be considered in isolation from other water management issues.

"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."

For more information about the series, contact Lavinnia Fiedler on 0428 737 995 or for more about the Mungindi competition contact Mungindi Fishing Club president Red Trindall on 0428 397 384.

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