

MEDIA RELEASE



October 7, 2009

"Working together – healthy landscapes, viable communities"

2009 Carp Buster fishing competition wrapping up

The 2009 Carp Buster fishing competition wraps up in Dirranbandi this weekend.

Queensland Murray-Darling Committee Weeds and Pest Animal Technical Officer Lavinnia Fiedler said the Dirranbandi event on October 10 and 11 was the last of the six-event series in 2009.

The 2009 series is supported by the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC) and the six fishing clubs involved – Thallon, Surat, Goondiwindi, Mungindi, St George and Dirranbandi –offer a prize pool of \$3000 with points awarded for the number of carp caught as well as the number of events entered.

"As well as raising awareness about the impact of introduced pest species, these events also allow us to highlight a host of other issues surrounding the degradation of our river and creek systems and other reasons for declines in native fish populations," Ms Fiedler said.

"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.

"The Carp Buster series is one of the biggest community awareness-raising programs in the area, allowing QMDC to encourage a coordinated and integrated approach to river restoration which will encourage the return of native fish species."

The fifth event in the series, at St George on September 26 and 27, attracted 330 anglers (more than 210 adults and almost 120 junior competitors).

In all, more than 300 carp with a total weight of 283kg were caught during the two days along a 70km stretch of the Balonne River.

Check out www.qmdc.org.au for details about future competitions.

Media contacts

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Photographs available.