

MEDIA RELEASE

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Harrisia Cactus control field day at Yelarbon

Landholders in the Yelarbon district will have the opportunity to learn how to control *Harrisia Cactus*, a declared weed, at a field day in Yelarbon next week.

Coordinated by the Inglewood and Texas Landcare Group in partnership with the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC), Biosecurity Queensland, Waggamba Landcare, Goondiwindi Regional Council and Dow AgroSciences, the half-day event will be held at the Yelarbon Memorial Hall on Friday, November 20 from 8am.

QMDC Weed and Pest Management Technical Officer Renee Stephenson said the event provided an opportunity for landholders to learn about and discuss control methods appropriate for *Harrisia Cactus*.

“Landholders will also learn about identification, ecology and biology of the species, and environmental and economic impacts,” Ms Stephenson said.

“QMDC mapping during the last three months will also give landholders a better picture of the current distribution of *Harrisia Cactus*.”

Inglewood and Texas Landcare Coordinator, Veronica Aster said infestations around the Yelarbon district were currently of a manageable size, with few infestations east of the town.

“This means now is a good time for landholders and council to work together to move the containment lines for *Harrisia Cactus* back toward Goondiwindi and prevent any further spread,” she said.

“*Harrisia Cactus* is a declared Class 2 plant under the *Land Protection Act 2002* and can choke out pasture species if left to form dense infestations. Its seeds are easily spread by birds and other animals and broken off portions of the plant can take root and grow.”

For more information, or to register your interest, contact Veronica Aster on 07 4652 1610.

The Queensland Murray-Darling Committee is a natural resource management organisation that supports communities within the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin to sustainably manage their natural resources. Visit www.qmdc.org.au for more information.

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Note: A photograph of *Harrisia Cactus* is available upon request.