

MEDIA RELEASE



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Go fishing for a good cause! Carp Buster 2010 starts soon

Anglers from across the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin are already preparing for the 2010 Carp Buster Fishing Series. The fishing series, held at six different locations around the Basin, is more than just a carp fishing competition.

The Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC) is coordinating the series along with the fishing clubs from Thallon, Goondiwindi, Bollon, Mungindi, St George and Dirranbandi in a bid to raise community awareness about the impacts of European Carp as well as other threats to the region's waterways.

QMDC Weed & Pest Animal Technical Officer Lavinnia Fiedler said the Carp Buster event was one of the biggest community awareness programs about European Carp and the damage they cause to river systems in Basin.

"Carp is one of the world's most widely distributed freshwater fish and has invaded large sections of southern Queensland's rivers, creeks and dams," Ms Fiedler said.

"The fishing series combines a family-orientated fun day out with an extensive education and awareness program highlighting the various factors influencing the health of river and creek systems in southern Queensland and populations of native fish species.

"The competitions also provide an excellent opportunity to involve children and an early identification and detection program for species that threaten the Basin, such as Tilapia, Cane Toads and exotic water weeds."

The 2010 series includes seven events, starting and finishing in Thallon with events hosted by the Goondiwindi, Bollon, Mungindi, St George and Dirranbandi fishing clubs before the final early in 2011.

The dates for the 2010 seven-event series are:

- Thallon Carp Buster – March 20-21
- Goondiwindi Carp Buster – April 24-25
- Bollon Carp Buster – May 22-23
- Mungindi Carp Buster – June 26-27
- St George Carp Buster – September 25-26
- Dirranbandi Carp Buster – October 16-17
- Thallon Carp Buster final – March 19-20, 2011.

QMDC's partners for the event and associated activities include the six regional fishing clubs, the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation, Biosecurity Queensland, regional councils and the Invasive Animals CRC.

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.

For more information, contact Lavinnia Fiedler on 0428 737 995.

Media contact/s

More information: Lavinnia Fiedler, QMDC Weeds and Pest Technical Officer, ph: 07 4620 4610

Released by: Pippa Bagshaw, QMDC Education Officer, ph: 07 4671 7900

***** Photographs from the 2009 competition available upon request.**