

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Rangers keen to work with Basin landholders

Helping clear exotic weeds, erecting fences to protect fragile environments and preserving sites of cultural significance are just some of the projects QMDC's Aboriginal Rangers are hoping to work on this year.

"Late in 2009, the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC) started its exciting Ranger program and with depots now established in Inglewood, Dirranbandi and St George, they are keen to start on-ground works," QMDC Aboriginal Program Regional Coordinator Tim Knox said.

"The Rangers have completed training in ACDC Chemical Accreditation, First Aid, chainsaw operation and Workplace Health and Safety and that means they are now ready to get out in the field."

The Ranger program is a long-term project of the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC), in partnership with the Federal Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts as part of the Australian Government's Working on Country Regional program.

Mr Knox said the Rangers would work with land managers, regional councils, communities and Traditional Owners to promote Landcare works and protect areas of environmental and cultural significance within the region.

"The Rangers are a great community resource who will help implement QMDC's Regional Caring for Country Plan and the Regional Natural Resource Management Plan, documents that help coordinate on-ground works across the Basin for the best possible outcomes," he said.

"This is all about boosting the sustainability of the region, from the natural assets to rural and regional communities.

"Already, several of the Ranger crews have been helping out at the Myall Park Botanic Gardens at Glenmorgan, working on revegetation and fencing projects.

"And around St George, their work means residents should be able to enjoy a wider diversity of flora and fauna along the riverbanks near the regional centre."

Mr Knox said while anyone interested in setting up projects with the Rangers could contact QMDC directly, consultative groups had also been established for the Border Rivers and Maranoa-Balonne.

"These groups will help ensure the communities in both catchments can have input into the projects we undertake; the Rangers are an amazing community resource and that means we're keen to involve community members as we plan out the work for the coming year," he said.

Anyone interested in discussing the range of projects the QMDC Rangers can undertake should contact QMDC Ranger Coordinator Charlie Waters on 0400 455 048.

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](http://www.qmdc.org.au) for more information.

### **Media contact/s**

**More information: QMDC Aboriginal Program Regional Coordinator  
Tim Knox, ph 0428 180 600**

**Released by: QMDC Regional Communications Officer Lisa Yorkston, ph 4637 6234**