

MEDIA RELEASE

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QUEENSLAND
MURRAY-
DARLING
COMMITTEE



Have a say on the future of rural R&D: QMDC

Rural research and development is under the microscope at the moment and QMDC is offering residents of the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin a chance to have their say.

Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC) Chief Executive Officer Geoff Penton said the Productivity Commission inquiry into the Australia Government's research and development corporations (RDC) model was a chance for those directly involved to comment.

"All rural and regional residents are involved when it comes to rural R&D, either as levy payers or beneficiaries of the work," Mr Penton said.

"In order to prepare QMDC's response to the inquiry, we are holding two public forums, one in Roma on June 15 and one in Goondiwindi on June 17."

Mr Penton said the inquiry was a chance for industry members and specialists to provide feedback on the balance between public and private investment, the appropriateness of current funding levels and arrangements as well any impediments to the functioning of the RDC model.

"The information gathered at the QMDC sessions will ensure we have a collective catchment response," he said.

"QMDC believes ongoing investment is critical to the future of research and development for the Basin's agricultural industries.

"The implementation of QMDC's natural resource management plan is underpinned by ongoing science-based research for the agricultural industries within the organisation's area of operation.

"The long term future of rural and regional Australia is dependent on quality research and development work that allow us all to operate in a sustainable manner."

Full details of the scope of the inquiry can be found at www.pc.gov.au/projects/inquiry/rural-research.

The Roma forum is at QMDC office (corner McDowell & Lewis streets) from 2-5pm on Tuesday, June 15 (7900RSVP to Angela Betts on 4620 4600). The Goondiwindi forum is at the O'Shea's Royal Hotel's conference room from 2-5pm on Thursday, June 17 (RSVP to Tammy Small on 4671).

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

Media contact/s

More information: QMDC CEO Geoff Penton, ph 0408 871 978

Released by: QMDC Regional Communications Officer Lisa Yorkston, ph 0427 468 861