

Aquatic Survey Works Underway

Through the National Landcare Programme, South West NRM recently commenced the first of a series of aquatic surveys planned for the region. In mid March, South West NRM engaged a specialist freshwater survey team called Range Environmental to undertake an aquatic health review of the Nebine/Mungallala, Warrego, Paroo and Bulloo Catchments.

The works undertaken included carp extraction, monitoring and measuring native fish, water quality testing parameters and the assessment of general overall waterhole health. The results from these works will help guide future investment potential in addressing the issue of invasive carp of inland waterways, and assist with potential mitigation works around major waterholes to improve riparian health from reduced runoff.

Initial results from this first round of investigations were very encouraging: in particular, at the Ward River in the Warrego Catchment, the team captured quite a few cod ranging from 30cm in length up to this beauty pictured below, which was 70cm long. Lots of various sized yellowbelly and even a few large catfish were also surveyed. This was a very positive outcome for the local community, as earlier in the year there was a distressing black water event in this same location which killed around 50 mature cod and many yellowbelly.

It was fantastic to see many local community members present who were interested in discussing the survey process and results, including Murweh Shire Mayor Annie Liston and local councillors, neighbouring land managers, interested community members, and members of the Charleville Fishing and Restocking Club.



Above: A large 70cm cod that was captured and released from the Ward River. Big thanks to Kira King from the Charleville Fishing and Restocking Club for this great photo!