



murrumbidgee catchment management authority

annual report 2008-09

VISION

“A healthy and productive Murrumbidgee catchment and it’s communities working together – Yindyamarra.”

Yindyamarra from the Wiradjuri language – to be gentle, be polite, honour and respect and do carefully.

Mission

To work with the community to better manage our natural assets and improve the environmental, economic and social outcomes for our catchment.

Our values

- Trust
- Honesty
- Respect
- Loyalty
- Flexibility

Our principles

- Integration
- Accountability
- Transparency
- Learning approach
- Teamwork
- Professionalism



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



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Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority
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Murrumbidgee CMA Communications Officer
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The Honourable John Robertson, MLC

Minister for Climate Change and the Environment

Level 35, Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place SYDNEY NSW 2000

30 October 2009

Dear Minister

I have great pleasure in submitting the Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority (CMA) annual report for presentation to the New South Wales Parliament for the period 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009.

The year to 30 June 2009 was the fifth year of operation for the Murrumbidgee CMA, and saw the successful delivery of natural resource management projects in partnership with local landholders, councils, community organisations and government departments.

This report has been prepared in accordance with section 17 of the *Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003*, and the *Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Act 1984* and *Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Regulation 2000*.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee O'Brien'.

Lee O'Brien
Chairperson
Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Burns'.

Joe Burns
Board Member
Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority



Murrumbidgee River, Balranald

chairman's report



2008-09 has been a year of ongoing success and development for the Murrumbidgee CMA.

We have continued to develop strong partnerships with land managers, Traditional Owners, community groups and other government agencies to protect and improve the management of the natural resources throughout this vast, productive and ecologically diverse catchment. All of our projects are developed to integrate and optimise environmental, social and economic benefits.

I am pleased to present the Murrumbidgee CMA 2008-09 Annual Report. Compiled through extensive consultation with Board Members, senior management, staff and various stakeholders, this report depicts our business and operational outputs and outcomes for the past year.

I am certain that through our many initiatives and partnerships, the Murrumbidgee CMA has, and will continue to, successfully deliver a comprehensive range of natural resource management programs and projects which lead to more resilient environmental, economic and community outcomes in the Murrumbidgee Catchment.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lee O'Brien". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lee O'Brien

Chairperson

Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority

general manager's report

Since establishment in 2004, the Murrumbidgee CMA has grown and developed into a leading natural resource management organisation, promoting resilient landscapes.

In just a short period of time, the Murrumbidgee CMA has achieved a remarkable level of success, having partnered with over 1000 rural landholders and protected more than half a million hectares of land.

Looking ahead, the Murrumbidgee CMA aims to strengthen the internal business systems that have been developed and make further progress towards performance excellence.

In response to the recent changes in investment streams and institutional arrangements with the Australian and NSW governments, as well as the important practical lessons learnt over the past few years, the Murrumbidgee CMA have refined the targeted approach to natural resource management investment. In the future, a market-based approach will be more prominent in the delivery of project funding, on-ground activities and business strategies.

The Murrumbidgee CMA values the input and participation of all stakeholders and will continue to have a strong community, client and partnership focus.

I believe the business and operational outputs and outcomes demonstrated in this year's report will assist the Murrumbidgee CMA to achieve better environmental, social and economic outcomes across the entire Murrumbidgee catchment and promote stronger partnerships with all of our stakeholders into the future.



Greg Bugden
General Manager
Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority



Covering ten percent of the total area of NSW, the Murrumbidgee catchment has one of the most diverse climates and productive natural and agricultural environments in New South Wales.

The Murrumbidgee River is the main stream running through the catchment. The third longest river in Australia, local Wiradjuri people named the river “Murrumbidgee”, meaning “big water”.

The Murrumbidgee catchment is home to sites of international ecological significance including the Fivebough and Tuckerbil Swamps and the Lowbidgee Wetlands. It has 130 threatened species, of which 48 are endangered, and 26 migratory bird species.

Major threats facing the Murrumbidgee catchment include urban and dryland salinity, water quality decline, incursion of weeds, erosion and soil structure problems, destruction of native wildlife habitat, and biodiversity decline.

our unique landscape

Catchment: An extent of land where water drains into a river, lake or wetland. The catchment includes the streams and rivers as well as the land surfaces from which water drains into those channels



River bottle brush (*Callistemon sieberi*)



Murrumbidgee CMA Chairperson, Lee O'Brien, addressing the crowd at the Darlington Point Traditional Owner River Restoration Launch

organisational profile

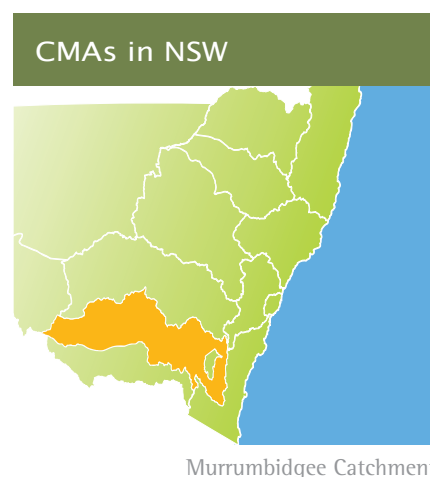
In 2004, the Murrumbidgee CMA was one of 13 Catchment Management Authorities established by the NSW Government, under the Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003. Our role is to engage regional communities in strategic on-ground activities to achieve better outcomes for native vegetation, biodiversity, land and rivers.

CMAs are community governed statutory organisations, and are the primary vehicle for the delivery of investment in NRM by the State and Australian governments, reporting directly to the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment.

The way in which the Murrumbidgee CMA undertakes its role has been guided by the NSW Government's Standard for Quality Natural Resource Management (2005) and Recommendations State-wide Resource Condition Targets (September 2005).

The specific functions of the Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority, as described in section 15 of the Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003, are to:

- develop the *Murrumbidgee Catchment Action Plan* and to give effect to this plan through annual implementation programs
- provide loans, grants, subsidies or other financial assistance for the purposes of the catchment activities it is authorised to fund
- enter contracts or do any work for the purposes of the catchment activities it is authorised to carry out
- assist landholders to further the objectives of the Murrumbidgee Catchment Action Plan (including providing information about native vegetation)
- provide educational and training courses, and materials in connection with natural resource management
- exercise any other function relating to natural resource management as is prescribed by the regulations



Murrumbidgee Catchment

CMA in the Murrumbidgee Catchment

The Murrumbidgee CMA is a team of highly skilled specialists in vegetation and landscape management. We rely on our dedicated staff, strong community partnerships and a well designed strategic approach to protect and improve the management of our ecologically diverse catchment.

With the support of our partners, we are educating, facilitating and empowering communities to improve the management of natural resources, on both privately and publicly owned rural land. In doing this we are maximising positive environmental, social and economic outcomes for the Murrumbidgee catchment.

The Murrumbidgee CMA is ensuring the protection and sustainable development of the environment through on-ground projects relating to:

- planting and protecting native vegetation
- managing water quality in creeks and rivers
- enhancing biodiversity
- improving soil health
- addressing urban and dryland salinity
- raising awareness of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage
- supporting Landcare

our key partners

Clients

- Rural landholders and managers with whom we negotiate on-ground natural resource works
- People of the Murrumbidgee catchment, including Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal People
- Local Governments of the catchment with whom we negotiate on-ground natural resource works and collaborate on natural resource planning
- Landcare networks and groups of the catchment whom we support for communication, capacity building and natural resource funding submissions
- Community participants in project liaison committees

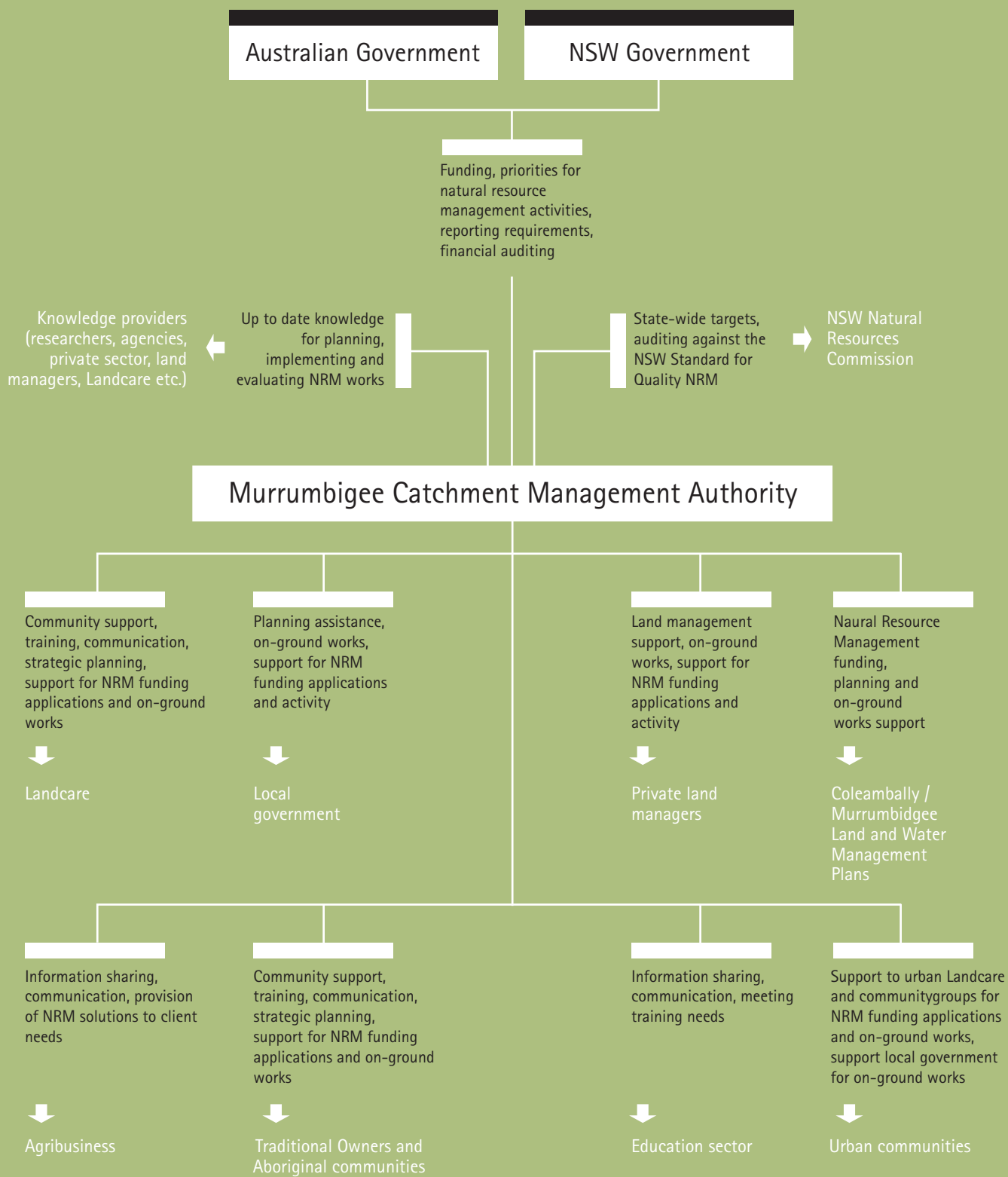
Stakeholders

- Rural landholders and managers
- Landcare members
- Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal People
- Local governments
- Funding partners
- Natural Resources Commission
- Agribusiness and related industry service providers
- Murrumbidgee Catchment community – urban and rural
- Contractors delivering Murrumbidgee CMA projects
- Universities, research organisations and other providers of up-to-date knowledge
- Related Government Agencies
- Local members and ministers at the State and Federal level
- NSW Catchment Management Authorities
- Environmental Groups



Lower Murrumbidgee EcoTender meeting, Balranald

thebigpicture



our corebusiness

To collaboratively develop a plan for the development of the catchment that reflects how the broader community want the Murrumbidgee catchment's natural resources to be managed Catchment Action Plan.

To work with stakeholders to facilitate the implementation of the *Murrumbidgee CAP* and promote the management of natural resources consistent with the community's aspirations and state and national government priorities.

To demonstrate our progress towards achieving community, state and national natural resource management goals.

To continually improve how natural resource management is being delivered across the Murrumbidgee catchment by being innovative and flexible in our response to better science and new and emerging issues, such as climate change.

operationalresponsibilities

Plans

- Integration of existing catchment, water, native vegetation and other natural resource management plans into the *Murrumbidgee CAP*
- Manage community involvement in the preparation of water sharing and groundwater plans

On-ground activities

- Native vegetation management; river and riparian rehabilitation; salinity abatement and soil health programs; improving farm sustainability systems

Community education and support

- Provision of community education, support and capacity building in natural resource management
- Technical advice on vegetation, soil, land and riparian management and related natural resource management issues
- Consultation and engagement of Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal people in natural resource management programs and development of the *Murrumbidgee CAP*

Investment

- Implementation of the *Murrumbidgee CAP* and development of related investment strategies
- Manage the NSW and Australian governments' *Catchment Action NSW* and *Caring for our Country* and programs in the Murrumbidgee catchment
- Delivery of incentives through the Property Vegetation Planning process
- Manage the Australian Government's investment in the Murrumbidgee and Coleambally Land and Water Management Plans

our people

Minister
for Climate
Change and the
Environment



Chairperson
and Board
Members



General
Manager



Program
Managers



Corporate Governance

The Murrumbidgee CMA's framework for good corporate governance is central to the organisation's accountability and responsibility to all stakeholders.

This framework for governance revolves around adequate internal and external reporting processes, measuring and monitoring performance, demonstrating integrity and transparency in decision making and being accountable for these decisions.

The Murrumbidgee CMA operates within the provisions of the *Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003*.

The Board

The Murrumbidgee CMA Board is responsible for providing overall direction to the Murrumbidgee CMA, as well as undertaking specific governing, advisory and operational responsibilities.

Together, the Board provide a range of experience, skills and knowledge in community engagement, primary production, biodiversity conservation, cultural heritage, business administration and corporate governance.

Board appointments are conducted by the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment according to the NSW Premier's Department Guidelines for *NSW Board and Committee Members: Appointments and Remuneration*.

Board structure

The Murrumbidgee CMA Board consists of five to seven members, including the Chairperson.

Board members are required to complete Corporate Governance Training, and demonstrate eligibility for membership of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, or an equivalent body.

Board Meetings

The Murrumbidgee CMA's Board held 11 scheduled meetings at locations throughout the Murrumbidgee Catchment in the 2008-09 reporting period. Members receive detailed briefings on key issues from senior management and staff throughout the year.

The General Manager attends all meetings. Minutes are taken to record all Board decisions.

board member profiles



LEE O'BRIEN
Chairperson
Appointed 11 February 2004

Lee has a Bachelor of Education (Technical) degree. In partnership with his wife Hetty, Lee owns and operates a sheep and dryland cropping farm at Henty in the southern part of the mid-Murrumbidgee catchment. He has a strong interest in Landcare, profitable - sustainable farming systems and integrated natural resource management.

Lee has been a member of the Alma Park/Pleasant Hills Landcare Group over the past fourteen years and was formerly an executive committee member of the Eastern Riverina Landcare Network.

Committees:
E.H. Graham Centre Industry Advisory Committee
Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre Advisory Committee

Attended 11/11 Board meetings



SULARI GOONETILLEKE
Board Member
Appointed 10 March 2008

Sulari resides, works and owns a property in West Batlow, where she and her husband run a Trufferie. With a Bachelor of Science, honours in Law and a Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice, Sulari started her career as a legal advisor and later worked as a corporate lawyer.

She is now an independent consultant and Corporate Counsel to a Tasmanian truffle company. Sulari was an original member of the Catchment Management Board for the Murrumbidgee and assisted in the development of the Murrumbidgee Catchment Blueprint.

Attended 10/11 Board meetings



JOSEPH BURNS
Board Member
Appointed 5 June 2005

Joseph is a Certified Practising Accountant and a Justice of the Peace. He previously worked for the NSW Department of Land and Water Conservation and has a deep interest and wide experience in natural resource and environmental management issues.

He is an associate of the Society of Certified Practicing Accountants and has 33 years experience specialising in the preparation of Annual Financial Statements and annual budgets. Mayor of the Leeton Shire Council for nearly ten years, Joseph was a Councillor for over eighteen years. He was recently appointed as Deputy Chair of the Riverina Regional Development Australia Board.

Committees:
Riverina Regional Development Australia Board (Deputy Chair)

Attended 10/11 Board meetings



MIKE SCHULTZ
Board Member
Appointed 5 May 2004

Mike is an ecologist based in Leeton, and has had 20 years experience as a primary producer in horticulture. He is a Director of an environmental and ecotourism company, MG & JT Pty. Ltd. Trading as TEMP. For the past 17 years Mike has worked in the areas of biodiversity conservation and catchment management, having been member of the NSW Native Vegetation Advisory Council, NSW Resource and Conservation Assessment Council, Murrumbidgee Regulated River Management Committee, and Murrumbidgee and Lachlan Groundwater Management Committees.

Mike is a member of the Commonwealth Department of Environment Water Heritage and Arts, Water Recovery and Environmental Use Reference Panel. He is Chair of the Fivebough and Tuckerbil Wetlands Trust, NSW Ramsar Managers Network, and Murrumbidgee River Environmental Water Reference Group.

Though his interest and involvement in waterbird research and wetland management, he has authored and co-authored a number of articles, technical reports, and publications in these fields.

Attended 10/11 Board meetings



GEOFFREY CHAPMAN
Board Member
Appointed 10 March 2008

Geoff together with his wife, Jill and family own and operates a 8200 hectare pastoral property south of Hay. He has lived in the Hay area for 24 years and has a keen interest in all aspects of natural resource management. A member of the initial Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Board, Geoff assisted in the development of the Murrumbidgee Catchment Blueprint. Geoff is a member of the Murrumbidgee CMA Finance and Audit subcommittee and Communications Working Group. As an active contributor to local farmer industry associations and Landcare, Geoff has an appreciation of landholder and community expectations of vegetation, water and biodiversity management.

Attended 11/11 Board meeting



DICK THOMPSON
Board Member
Appointed 5 May 2004

Dick owns and operates a broad acre irrigation farm at Hanwood producing rice, winter cereals and prime lambs. Dick was elected to the initial Irrigators Board in 1989; in July 1997 he chaired the former Murrumbidgee Irrigation State Owned Corporation, and has continued on as Chairman since the irrigator owned Company was formed in 1999. Dick is a member of the Murrumbidgee Customer Services Committee of State Water.

Committees:
Murrumbidgee Irrigation (Chair)
State Water – Murrumbidgee Customer Services Committee (Member)
Murray Darling Basin Community Committee (Member)

Attended 10/11 Board meetings



SUE BULGER
Board Member
Appointed 17 February 2009

Sue is a Wiradjuri woman, born in Gundagai and raised at the Brungle Mission. She has more than 30 years experience as a primary school teacher and is currently teaching at a local Catholic School in Tumut, where she now resides.

Sue is an active member of the Tumut community, and has been a Councilor at Tumut Shire Council for the past nine years. She is passionate about youth, education, and Indigenous issues, and is dedicated to promoting opportunity for Aboriginal People to reconnect with 'Country' and further their education in Cultural Heritage. Sue believes understanding and applying the values of Cultural Heritage in the landscape will help maintain a sustainable catchment for the future.

Committees:
Council Delegate for the Tumut Shire Youth Council
Tumut Shire Council Aboriginal Liaison Committee

Attended 5/5 Board meetings

Board Committees

Two committees assist the Murrumbidgee CMA with corporate governance functions. Each committee operates under approved Terms of Reference and is chaired by a Board Member. Minutes of each meeting and recommendations are presented to the Board for consideration.

Finance and Audit Committee

The Finance and Audit Committee is responsible for ensuring the Murrumbidgee CMA's corporate governance responsibilities and financial/administrative accountabilities are met. These responsibilities relate to financial planning, management and control processes. The Committee plays a major role in ensuring accounting policies and principles are implemented in accordance with the stated financial reporting framework.

Risk Management and Governance Committee

The primary purpose of the Risk Management and Governance Committee is to ensure the Murrumbidgee CMA's corporate risk management and governance responsibilities are met. This is achieved by ensuring appropriate systems are in place to assess key strategic and operational risks to the Murrumbidgee CMA, and maintaining the controls needed to manage these risks.

Key Board Actions 2008-09

- Development of the Murrumbidgee CMA *Corporate Strategic Plan*
- Development of the Operational Plan of the Murrumbidgee CMA *Corporate Strategic Plan*
- Lodged Investment Proposal for *Caring for our Country* 2009-12
- Lodged Investment Program for *Catchment Action NSW* 2009-10

Major Board Events

- Darlington Point Traditional Owner River Restoration Project launch, Darlington Point
- Yindyamarra Showcase, Wagga Wagga
- Murrumbidgee Regional Landcare Awards, Griffith
- Returning to *Country and Culture* DVD launch, Tumut
- Queanbeyan Traditional Owner River Restoration Project launch, Queanbeyan

management team



The Murrumbidgee CMA Management Team is led by General Manager and comprises of four Program Managers who oversee the implementation of projects and business operations.

In April 2009, Dr John Searson retired as General Manager after nearly five years in the position and more than 38 years service in the NSW Public Service. After acting in the role for a number of months, Mr Greg Bugden was appointed as General Manager in September 2009.

GENERAL MANAGER Greg Bugden Dip.App.Sc(Agric)

The General Manager is responsible for day-to-day operations and reports to the Board. It is the responsibility of the General Manager to ensure the Murrumbidgee CMA achieves its mission and financial objectives by:

- leading, directing, managing and controlling the operations of the Authority through efficient use of human, information and financial resources
- developing, reviewing and implementing operational policies, strategies and strategic plans
- providing strategic, business, technical and policy advice to the Board and supporting the Board's governance and advisory roles
- maintaining and developing partnerships with stakeholders including the local community, private sector and all tiers of government

PROGRAM MANAGER Sustainable Landscapes and Implementation Rob Scriven Dip.App.Sc; M.App Sc

The Program Manager of the Sustainable Landscapes Unit is responsible for staff and programs related to developing sustainable landscapes within a production-conservation oriented environment. The Sustainable Landscapes Unit is tasked with :

- working closely with landcare and the community to engage them in natural resource management activities,
- connecting with the indigenous community and Traditional Owners to promote understanding and awareness of cultural heritage and cultural values in natural resource management
- delivering environmental stewardship programs for the ongoing management of endangered ecological vegetation communities using tender based incentive programs,
- management, conservation and rehabilitation of riverbank, wetland and floodplains including a focus on significant wetlands
- promoting sustainable agriculture in the wheat-sheep belt and sustainable grazing of the Riverine plains and shrublands.
- working with industry including the major irrigation corporations to assist them with natural resource management outcomes
- liaising with and fostering partnerships with local government and the community to achieve the targets set out in the Murrumbidgee Catchment Action Plan

The Sustainable Landscapes Unit is spread across seven CMA office locations throughout the catchment and integrates soil health, biodiversity, water quality, wetland management, cultural heritage programs at the farm level, and is engaged in large-scale and industry projects.



PROGRAM MANAGER
Sustainable Ecosystems, Monitoring and
Evaluation, Community
John Francis
B.App.Sc(Agric); Grad.Cert.Mgt

The Sustainable Ecosystems, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Community Program Manager is responsible for projects relating to ecosystem management. Programs include monitoring and evaluation, strategic planning, development and review of the Murrumbidgee Catchment Action Plan, compliance with Natural Resources Commission Standard and Targets, and the management of staff and project implementation in the eastern half of the catchment.

The Sustainable Ecosystems, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Community Program includes a Property Vegetation Planning team as well as staff delivering on-ground projects including improving soil health, addressing salinity and improving water quality, protecting and enhancing biodiversity, river restoration, wetland conservation, urban salinity management, perennial pasture establishment, riverine habitat improvement and willow control. All projects include a community involvement component to ensure uptake and on-going partnerships with organisations including local government and Landcare.



PROGRAM MANAGER (Acting)
Investment
Michael Dunn
Dip.App.Sc (Agric)

The Investment team is responsible for the development of the Murrumbidgee CMA Investment Strategies and Annual Implementation Plans. They are required to communicate, to the community and other stakeholders, the range of investment programs the Murrumbidgee CMA will be implementing, and to seek expressions of interest for each project. Projects are implemented annually with set contract milestones, reviewed on a quarterly basis. Monitoring, evaluation and auditing of each project is undertaken through either internal or external audits. The unit is responsible for brokering and developing additional funding opportunities with stakeholders to implement the Murrumbidgee Catchment Action Plan.

Engagement of indigenous communities in natural resource management is a significant activity of the unit, overseeing specific projects, working groups and supporting the Traditional Owners Reference Group.



BUSINESS MANAGER
Finance
Wayne Maybury
Acct.Cert; Grad.Cert.PrAcct

The Finance team is responsible for carrying-out financial and administrative support services for the Murrumbidgee CMA. The team manages the delivery of shared support services from Department of Environment and Climate Change and other providers. Responsible for budget preparation and monitoring, the team also undertakes management and statutory reporting, development and implementation of administrative procedures, facilities management, assets, motor vehicles and staff establishment and recruitment issues.

performance

quality internal operations

As required under the Catchment Management Authority Act 2003 and the Natural Resources Commission Act 2003, the Murrumbidgee CMA is compliant with the NSW Standard for Quality Natural Resource Management 2005. The Standard outlines what the Natural Resource Commission expects regarding the implementation of the Murrumbidgee Catchment Action Plan and the way the Murrumbidgee CMA manages programs and projects, staff, clients and other partners.

The Murrumbidgee CMA strives for excellence in NRM and systematic approaches are applied to meeting the Standard and to fostering a culture of excellence in all aspects of our business.

Business Systems

Business systems have been developed internally to ensure cost effective investment in NRM and to ensure the confidence of the public, investors, and clients in how we make that investment.

A number of key business systems have been developed and applied to the Murrumbidgee CMA's including a transparent, consistent and repeatable system to rank investment options, the use of best knowledge in NRM, management and mitigation of risks in NRM, and an integrated approach to relating the systems to each other.

Business systems have been developed for:

- Risk
- Occupational health and safety
- Integrated project delivery
- Use of best Knowledge
- Document management control
- Procurement
- Communication
- Annual investment strategy

Upgrading document control

Objective Electronic Document and Records Management System is a tool that is designed to provide the capability to "corporately" store, retrieve, share, distribute and manage documents whether in electronic or paper format.

It integrates with other desktop applications including Word, Excel, Acrobat and GroupWise providing a much more comprehensive and reliable environment to identify information associated with specific content over time.

Murrumbidgee CMA introduced Objective EDRMS as an initiative to help improve service delivery and support compliance with the growing regulatory and legal requirements such as the NSW Government policy on Electronic Record keeping and Electronic Messages as Records, April, 1998 and the requirement for all NSW Government Agencies to have such systems in place by 2012.

All Murrumbidgee CMA staff received end user training on Objective EDRMS early March 2009. The Murrumbidgee CMA is committed to effectively managing its records within Objective EDRMS.

Murrumbidgee Catchment Action Plan

The *Murrumbidgee Catchment Action Plan* is a legislative document developed by the Murrumbidgee CMA to give voice and strategic focus to the community's aspirations for natural resource management in the Murrumbidgee catchment. The plan spans ten years, and is updated to reflect improving knowledge and changing community priorities. The Murrumbidgee CAP was approved by the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment in January 2008, following four years of extensive community consultation and development.

The NSW Government's Standard for Quality Natural Resource Management has informed and functionalised the targets and actions of the CAP, which have been divided into four key asset areas. Each of the four assets; Community, Biodiversity, Water and Land, has targets, actions and ways to monitor progress toward improvement.

It is intended the community be involved in delivering the CAP, with Industry, government agencies, Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal people, local government, rural and urban communities, Landcare and other stakeholders having the opportunity for input and partnership to achieve the targets. The Murrumbidgee CMA plays an important brokering role to foster partnerships and co-investment to deliver the outcomes of the CAP.

You can view the Murrumbidgee CAP online at:
www.murrumbidgee.cma.nsw.gov.au

State Plan: A New Direction

The NSW State Plan sets out the areas of activity the community sees as priority in the goal of practical environmental solutions.

The Murrumbidgee CMA has aligned itself against the targets and actions under priority E4: Better Environmental Outcomes for Native Vegetation, Biodiversity, Land and Rivers, and is delivering locally through the Murrumbidgee CAP

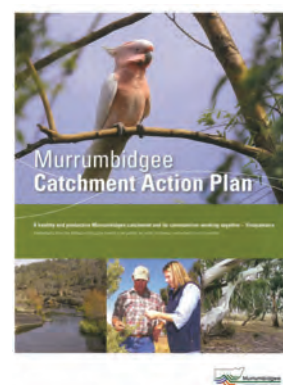
The Murrumbidgee CMA is tailoring on-ground projects to meet environmental challenges, particularly climate change and drought and environmental protection for sustainable healthy and resilient natural resources.

Caring for our Country

The Australian Government's *Caring for our Country* initiative seeks to achieve an environment that is healthy, better protected, well managed and resilient, and provides essential ecosystem services in a changing climate.

In 2008-09, the *Caring for our Country* business plan was released seeking investment proposals for projects that address the national priority areas. It identified the priority targets, designed as stepping stones to achieve five-year outcomes across national priority areas.

planning for success



CAP



State Plan



Caring 4 our Country

achievements

Since 2004, the Murrumbidgee CMA has:

- Planted 2.5 million trees
- Protected 1000 hectares of critical wetland habitat
- Managed 450,000 hectares of land for improved soil health
- Conserved 42,000 hectares of native vegetation
- Trained and empowered over 3,500 landholders to manage the environment
- Skilled over 60 Indigenous trainees in landscape conservation and cultural heritage

Investment

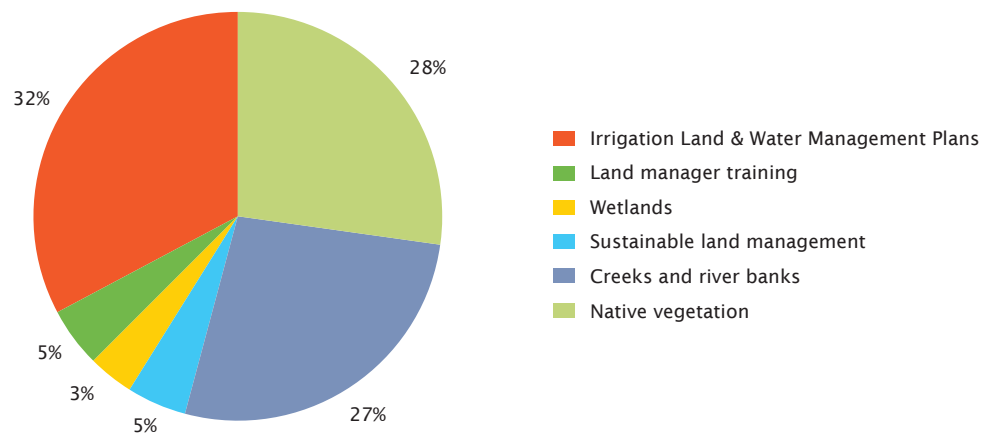
Building on the success of the previous four years, there were substantial on-ground achievements made in 2008-09. As a result of strong community engagement, strategic planning and on-ground works programs, we have made significant headway in achieving targets identified in the Murrumbidgee Catchment Action Plan.

During 2008-09, the Murrumbidgee CMA invested \$8,172,600 in the delivery of programs that improved the quality and extent of native vegetation; rehabilitated waterways; conserved wetlands and helped landholders better manage natural resources on-farm.

Table 1. Investment by areas of activity

Program	Estimated investment (\$m) 2008-09
Native vegetation	2,244,000
Salt affected sites	0
Creeks and river banks	2,202,000
Sustainable land management	387,000
Wetlands	281,000
Land manager training	393,000
Irrigation L&WMP's	2,665,600
Total	\$8,172,600

Chart 1. Investment by areas of activity



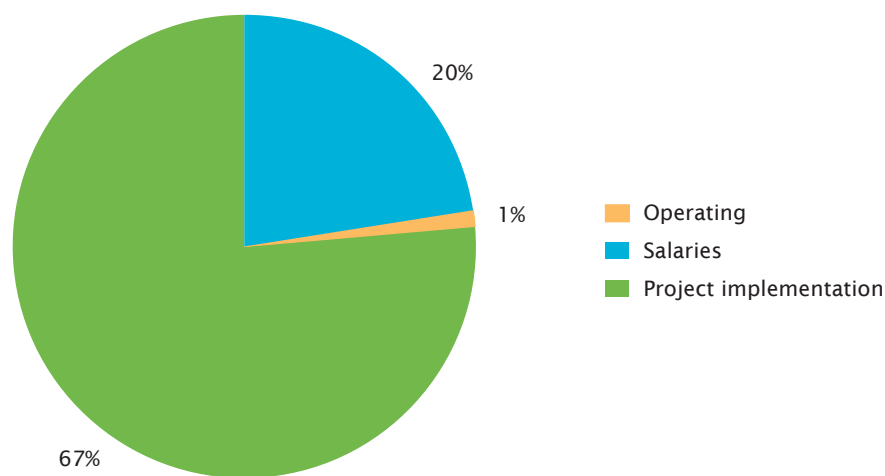


Spotted Pardalote

Table 2. Expense distribution

Expense distribution	Investment (%) 2008-09
Salaries	1
Operating	20
Project implementation	67

Chart 2. Expense distribution





Creek revegetation, Gaylong

Table 3. Source of funds

Source of funds	Investment (%) 2008-09
Aust /NSW Govt - NAP	30
Aust Govt - Caring for Our Country	18
NSW Govt - Recurrent Operating Funds	16
NSW Govt - Land Water Management Plans	16
Other Income	6
NSW Govt - Catchment Action NSW	4
NSW Govt - Other (ESS,S10,Sust. Trust)	4
Aust Govt - Other (NLP & NHT)	3
Interest	3
Aust Govt - Caring for Our Country - Open Grants	1

Chart 3. Source of funds

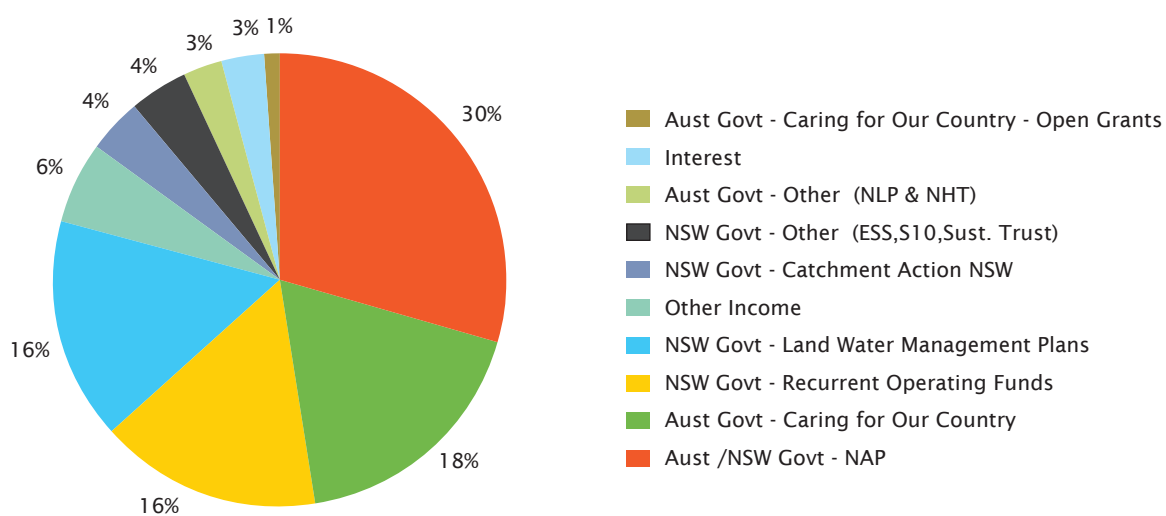
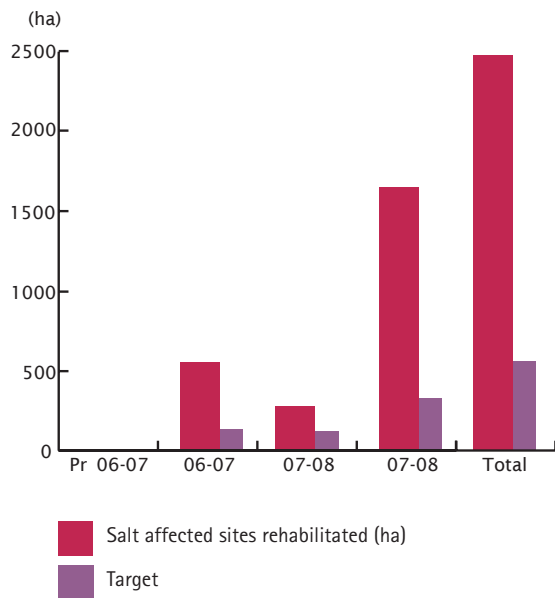
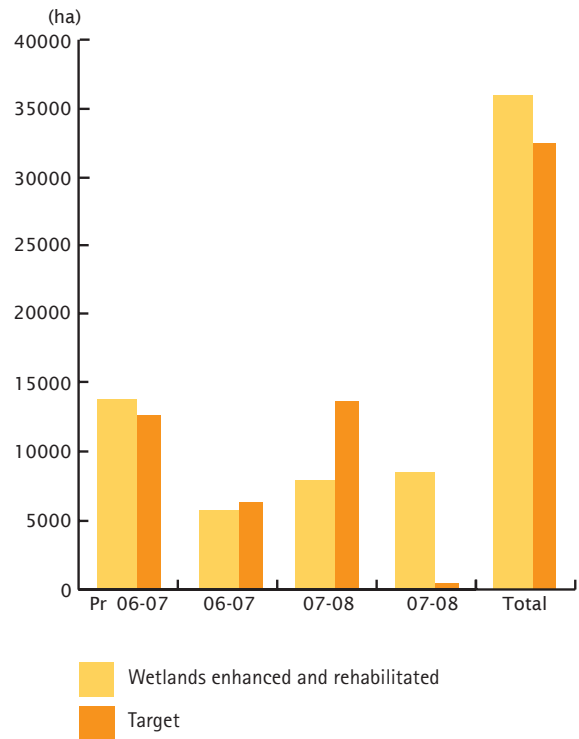


Chart 4. Achievements by area of activity

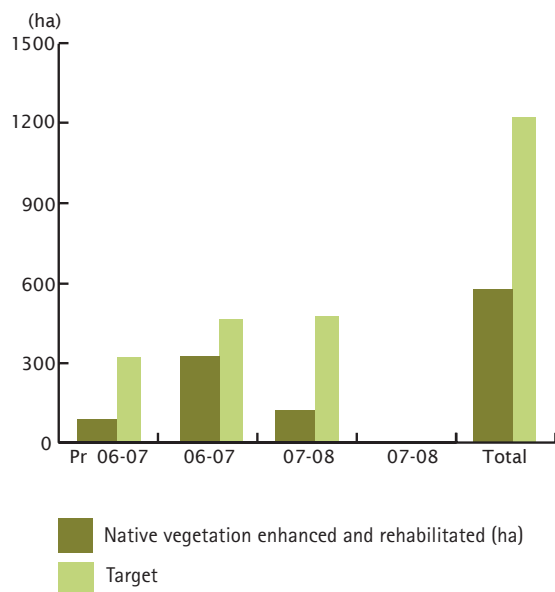
Salt affected sites rehabilitated



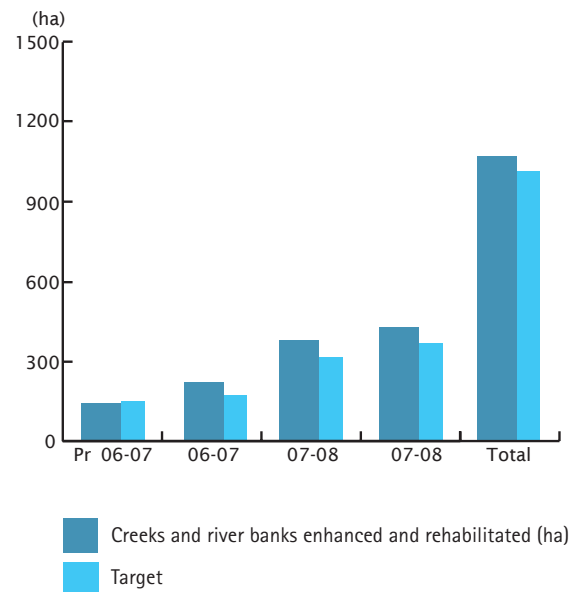
Wetlands protected and enhanced



Native vegetation protected and enhanced



Creeks and river banks enhanced and rehabilitated

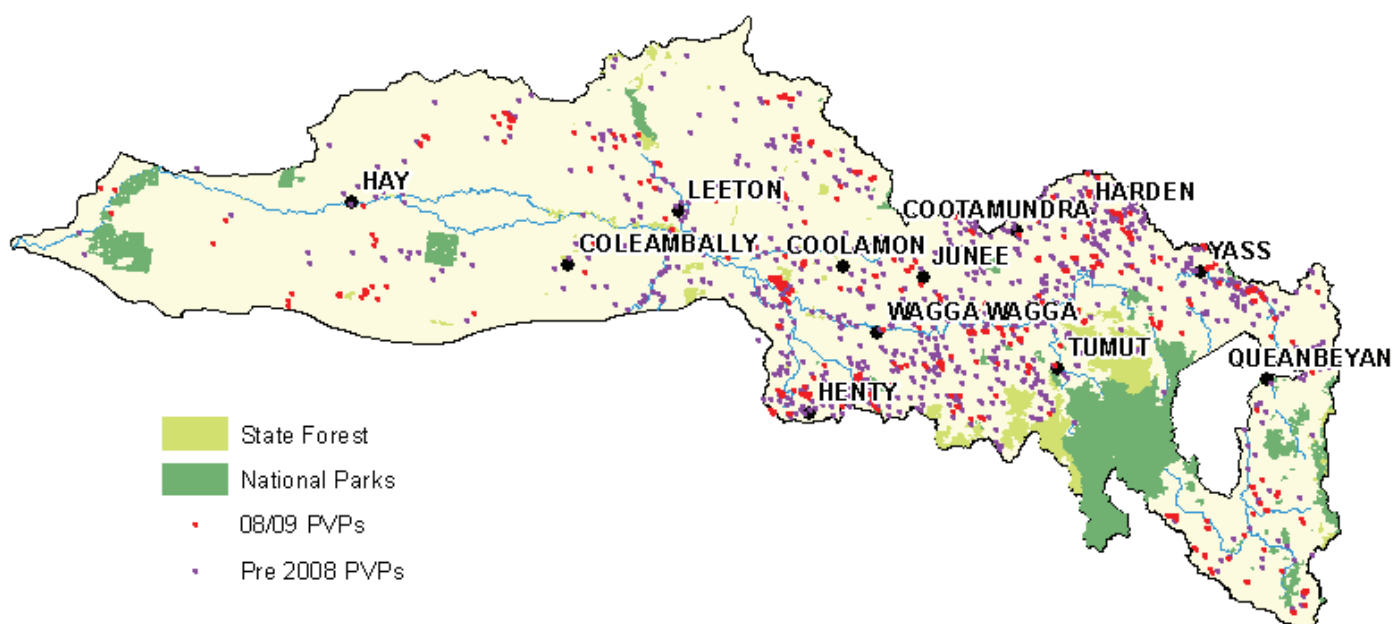


“Over half a million ha of land has been protected since 2005”

Property Vegetation Planning

Since December 2005, the Murrumbidgee CMA has partnered landholders in a total of xx Property Vegetation Plans across the Murrumbidgee catchment. xx of these PVPs were negotiated in 2008-09 financial year and have resulted in revegetation and natural regeneration, stewardship of existing vegetation, or remnant vegetation protection.

PVPs are an integral part of native vegetation laws in NSW and are helping landholders achieve a healthy balance between environmental and on-farm production benefits.



PVP: A legal agreement by which the Murrumbidgee CMA administers and delivers incentive funding, under the Native Vegetation Act 2003, to landholders to protect and maintain and restore important vegetation types, landscapes, river banks and wetlands.

Table 4. Native vegetation protected under PVPs

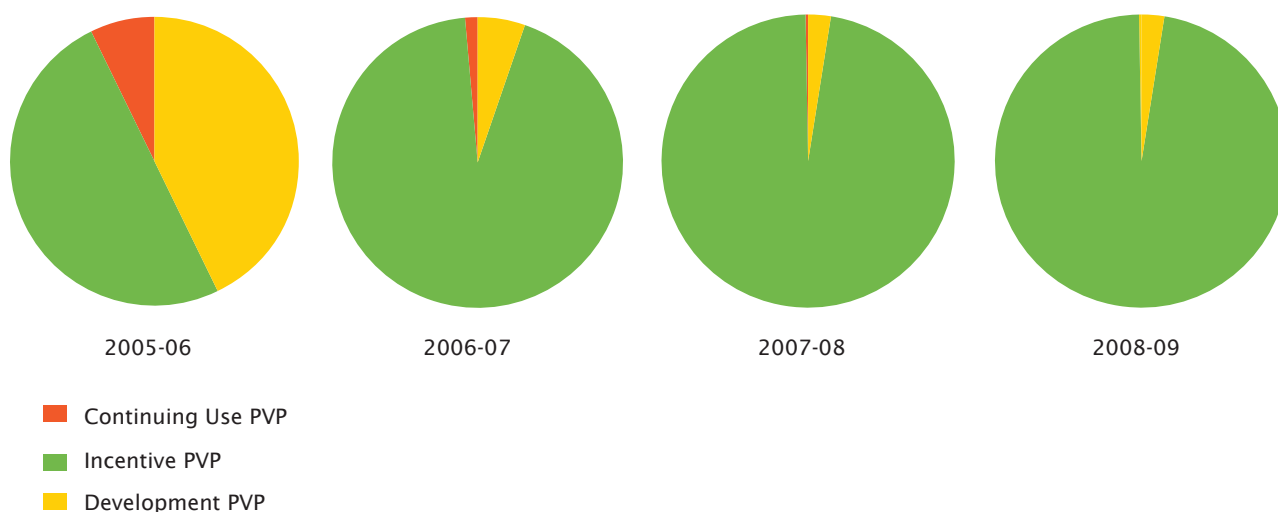
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Total
Hectares protected	32	13,000	44,398	10,273	67,703

Table 5. Delivery of Property Vegetation Plans

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Development PVP	6	13	14	4
Incentive PVP	7	221	500	192
Continuing Use PVP	1	3	1	0
Total	14	237	515	196

Note: Data has varied from previous annual reports due to a change from PAMS reporting mechanism to PADACS.

Chart 5. Delivery of Property Vegetation Plans



PVPs – Delivered by specialists

The Murrumbidgee CMA comprises of more than 60 specialist staff, located at 12 regional centres throughout the catchment. Our team delivers a full range of professional natural resource management services to the Murrumbidgee catchment community and are accredited and highly skilled in the delivery of PVP agreements.

In 2008-09:

- 17 Murrumbidgee CMA staff are accredited in PVP Level 1 to develop financial incentive PVPs
- A further 7 staff are accredited in PVP Level 2 to deliver incentive and clearing PVPs
- 7 staff are PVP Level 3 Accredited Experts in the areas of water quality; soils; salinity; biodiversity; threatened species



Murrumbidgee CMA staff monitoring the success of planting and preparation at an on ground works staff field day.

Monitoring, Evaluating and Reporting

The Murrumbidgee CMA aims to ensure a systematic process of monitoring, evaluating and reporting to inform progress towards achieving the Catchment Action Plan targets, NSW State Plan Targets and Australian Government (Caring for our Country) priorities, along with adaptive management for improved Murrumbidgee CMA operating systems and ultimately natural resource management.

The intent of MER is to demonstrate how activities undertaken at a property, sub-catchment and catchment scale ultimately contribute to a state of improved natural resource management.

Performance stories

Output reporting based on ha's of revegetation and km's of stream bank rehabilitated, often doesn't provide sufficient evidence of how long-term outcomes, such as improved water quality, will be achieved. Furthermore, such links may take many years to become evident.

The Murrumbidgee CMA is addressing this issue by developing a series Performance Stories to demonstrate how this process could be applied efficiently to future on ground MER processes.

Performance stories are a recognised method of reporting that helps link on-ground activities to intermediate and longer term outcomes where these links are not obvious through tangible evidence alone.

Performance stories involve participant interviews to demonstrate expected results and to answer key evaluation questions, in order to demonstrate the short term progress of a project towards long term expectations.

Performance stories add to the suit of project management and MER tools used by the Murrumbidgee CMA, such as output reporting for projects and asset/project evaluations.



A suite of Performance Stories has been developed to further enhance reporting mechanisms.

Involving Landholders in monitoring

A Landholder Logs are provided annually to landholders who have a PVP contract with the Murrumbidgee CMA. The logs are kept as part of the Landholder Project File, which is a record keeping system whereby landholders can store their PVP contract, project information, fact sheets and other related NRM information. Landholders are required to capture valuable site information, that can be reviewed and used for reporting by the Murrumbidgee CMA, on an annual basis. Essentially, the landholder logs encourage landholders to take note of changes and interesting developments in their PVP area.

Photopoints are recorded at project sites upon commencement of a PVP. These points are permanently marked at the site, and landholders are encouraged to take additional photos and make notes throughout the year – particularly after significant events such as bushfire, storms and bird breeding activity. Below is an example of a series of Photopoints on a PVP site.

As you can see in the original site assessment photo (Photo 1) there are many exotic grass species dominating the site – hence the unusually green cover.

Photo 2 shows the same site being prepared for revegetation, with weed control actions have been completed, including chemical application and crash grazing, and rip lines ready for planting.

Photo 3 shows the site with healthy stands of native grass. Exotic weeds on the site have now been significantly reduced with ongoing assessment of the site and active management by the landholder.



Photo 1: September 2006, exotic weed invasion



Photo 2: July 2008, preparing for planting.



Photo 3: November 2008, improved native grass cover

communityasset



Stubble Field Day, Harden

“Sustainable resources for a sustainable community”

The Murrumbidgee CMA recognises that investing in the community’s capacity to better manage natural resources, and listening to our clients and partners key challenges, is critically important if we are to achieve Murrumbidgee CAP targets for improved natural resource management.

One of our key focuses during 2008–09 has been the involvement of youth in NRM. Youth forums were conducted at High Schools in twelve locations across the catchment, promoting youth participation and interest in our local environment.

Local government partnerships and programs have again been a cornerstone of on-ground action across the catchment, and we have continued to develop a strong focus on implementing opportunities for Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal people to manage and reconnect with ‘Country’.

Landholders have continued to make moves towards more sustainable land management practices through Property Vegetation Plans, with more than 1000 PVP agreements now active in the Murrumbidgee catchment.

Murrumbidgee Catchment Action Plan Targets

- CRCT 1: By 2016 the effectiveness of the Murrumbidgee CMA’s engagement and collaboration with identified key stakeholders is addressed
- CRCT 2: By 2016 increase the engagement of Traditional Owners and Aboriginal people in NRM and increase the wider communities understanding of indigenous values in NRM
- CRCT 3: By 2016 Catchment Action Plan targets are integrated in the planning frameworks and operations of all levels of government and other key stakeholders
- CRCT 4: By 2016 an improvement in community capacity to deliver NRM outcomes is achieved by increasing skills, knowledge and adoption of NRM activities as measured by monitoring of behaviour and subject to annual review

State-wide Resource Condition Targets

- Target 12: Natural resource decisions contribute to improving or maintaining economic sustainability and social well being
- Target 13: There is an increase in the capability of natural resource managers to contribute to regionally relevant NRM

Caring for our Country Targets

- Increasing community knowledge and skills
- Increasing participation in natural resource management
- Improving delivery of best practice

5 year achievements

Community Engagement	Awareness raising events such as demonstrations, field days or study tours	756 events
Landholder agreements on title	Conservation covenants or other agreements attachment to title negotiated	925 agreements



The Darlington Point Traditional Owner River Restoration team is one of eight Indigenous teams restoring key environmental and cultural sites across the Murrumbidgee Catchment.

Increasing Indigenous Involvement in NRM

A model for reconnecting Indigenous people with 'Country' and their cultural heritage has been developed by the Murrumbidgee CMA. This model provides Traditional Owners and Aboriginal people with accredited training and skills to rehabilitate the banks of the Murrumbidgee River and improve their future employment opportunities in natural resource management.

65 Indigenous trainees (including 7 females) are currently working on *Traditional Owner River Restoration* projects across the Murrumbidgee Catchment. Through these projects, the Murrumbidgee CMA works with a range of partners including local governments, group training companies, NSW and Australian governments, the Murrumbidgee CMA Traditional Owner Reference Group and other local stakeholders.

Project trainees study Certificate II Conservation and Land Management, through TAFE NSW. Trainees gain accreditation and skills including:

- Identifying and mapping areas/sites of cultural importance
- Senior first aid
- Fire fighting (NSW Fire Brigade)
- Blue card (safety) and White card (OH&S)
- Chainsaw operation levels I and II
- ChemCert Chemical Users/ Applications Certificate II
- Bobcat operation
- Excavator operation
- Truck operation
- Loader and traffic control



John Bamblett is part of the Darlington Point Traditional Owner River Restoration team who have been rehabilitating the banks of the Murrumbidgee River at 'The Bunyip Hole'.

Case study

Rehabilitating areas of environmental and cultural significance

Overview

Six Aboriginal trainees have been hard at work restoring key environmental sites at Adelong Creek, Gilmour Creek, Riverglade Wetlands and Brungle village.

The team has undertaken on-ground works including invasive weed control, fencing and replanting native trees, shrubs and grasses.

Thanks to the work the team have undertaken, access and use of Riverglade wetlands and the Gilmour Creek area has improved considerably. Through the removal of weeds and the construction of walkways and signage, the team has facilitated a greater connection to the natural environment and Cultural Heritage for locals and tourists.

Snapshot:

Location: Tumut

Partners: Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority, Tumut Shire Council, Snowy Works, Tumut Aboriginal Community, TAFE NSW

Since the project commenced in 2008, the team have:

- Controlled 2km invasive weeds
- Planted 3420 native trees and shrubs
- Constructed 1.45km fencing to protect waterways
- 50 nesting boxes erected for native birds and animals
- 2km path constructed for improved access



Tumut Traditional Owner River Restoration team removing invasive willows from Adelong Falls



The Wagga Wagga Traditional Owner River Restoration Team were presented with certificates of recognition by Member for Wagga Wagga Mr Daryl Maguire and Wagga Wagga City Council's Ms Janice Summerhayes.

Yindyamarra Showcase

More than 200 people attended a celebration of Indigenous involvement in natural resource management projects, hosted by the Murrumbidgee CMA at the Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre, in August 2008.

Attendees of the *Yindyamarra Showcase* were welcomed to country by Wiradjuri Elder and Murrumbidgee CMA Board Member, Ms Flo Grant, and heard from keynote speaker Mr Rod Mason from National Parks and Wildlife Service and Steven Ross of the Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations.

Murrumbidgee CMA Chairperson, Mr Lee O'Brien, said the showcase was a great success, shedding light on the many Aboriginal projects across the Murrumbidgee catchment and NSW that are working towards increased Traditional Owner and Aboriginal people's participation in natural resource management.

The Showcase was an opportunity for attendees to hear about seven different Aboriginal projects being delivered by the Murrumbidgee CMA in partnership with local councils and landholders. Projects and stories were also shared from neighbouring CMAs, Lachlan and Central West.

Ms Grant said our past plays a major part in where we are today, and the Yindyamarra Showcase helped celebrate Aboriginal involvement in natural resource management, as well as inspiring us to move forward.

"The concept of the Showcase was to promote and acknowledge the outstanding work local Indigenous people have undertaken in caring for 'Country'. There are so many wonderful stories and great lessons to be learnt from local people," she said.

Member for Wagga Wagga, Mr Daryl Maguire, attended the Showcase and presented the Murrumbidgee CMA Traditional Owner River Restoration Teams with certificates of recognition, for the valuable restoration works they have undertaken along the Murrumbidgee River.

“Students genuinely want to help preserve the environment for the future”

- Adrian Wells, Murray Darling Association

Listening to students about catchment management

During 2008-09, the Murrumbidgee CMA conducted a series of youth forums across the Murrumbidgee catchment to engage with local secondary school students about natural resource management and hear their views on managing the environment.

The forums were an opportunity to engage over 250 young people in natural resource management, identify environmental issues of concern and help them understand the role of the Murrumbidgee CMA and Murrumbidgee Catchment Action Plan.

The Murray Darling Association facilitated the forums that were held at Balranald, Griffith, Hay, Leeton, Wagga Wagga, Gundagai, Tumut, Queanbeyan and Cooma.

Around 30 key natural resource management issues were identified by students. The biggest issues were drought and a lack of water in the rivers for social, economic and environmental sustainability.

Murrumbidgee CMA Chairperson, Mr Lee O'Brien, said the Board was delighted with the student responses to the forums.

“It was pleasing to note that students were interested in the need for more careful use of water and that everyone in the community had a responsibility to care for our precious and fragile environment”, Mr O'Brien said.



Murrumbidgee CMA catchment officer Peter Bennetts analysing water invertebrates with a group of students from Kildare Catholic College, at the Youth Forum in Wagga Wagga.

Case study

outdoor education for Cootamundra High



NSW DPI agronomist Phil Bowden, talks to Cootamundra High School students about crop rotation and stubble management.

Overview

A youth forum was conducted at Cootamundra High School, involving 26 students from years 10, 11 and 12.

The forum program was developed in conjunction with the school and staff from the Murrumbidgee CMA Wagga Wagga and Cootamundra, and encouraged students to find a balance between environmental, social and economic needs.

A bus tour was held, involving visits to various properties to look at erosion control; willow management; drought management; new cropping techniques; sediment; tree planting; and managing stubble. Two NSW Department of Primary Industries staff gave the students a talk on crop rotation and stubble management. A farmer also addressed the students on sheep management, drought and sediment management.

Students commented that activities such as the forum were helping them to better understand environmental issues within the catchment and how they can help manage problems.

Snapshot:

Location: Cootamundra
Partners: Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority, Murray Darling Association, Cootamundra High School, Cootamundra Shire Council, Department of Primary Industries.

Managing Climate Risk

With the majority of NSW having been in drought for the past ten years, understanding weather and climate change is imperative for farmers who constantly make business decisions based on the weather.

Workshops addressing climate change and variability were held across the Murrumbidgee catchment as part of the Murrumbidgee CMA's program to help land managers better prepare for extreme climatic events.

The Murrumbidgee CMA supported nine workshops in partnership with local Landcare networks, with a total of 70 landholders participating.

The farmer's guide to managing climate risk workshop, delivered by NSW DPI, taught landholders skills in assessing and reviewing local climatic data to determine the probability of climate events occurring, and how to develop strategies to better manage potential risks.



Junee land managers received practical advice on how to manage the risks of extreme climatic events.

Case study

better planning for wind, rain and frost

Snapshot:

Location: Junee

Partners: Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority, NSW Department of Primary Industries, Junee Area Landcare Network.

Overview

The Junee Area Landcare Network joined the Murrumbidgee CMA in hosting *The farmer's guide to managing climate risk workshop* at the Junee Ex-Services Club.

The workshop was invaluable for Junee land managers, as they learnt how to read and interpret weather maps, analyse local and regional climate history and understand seasonal patterns.

This training has enabled land managers to understand the issue of climate risk, how it may impact on them and what can be done to mitigate against the risks to their enterprise.

Murrumbidgee CMA and Landcare: a common goal

In 2008-09, the Murrumbidgee CMA has continued to support and partner with Landcare networks throughout the Murrumbidgee catchment. The Murrumbidgee CMA provides training opportunities and partnership projects for local Landcare group members, as well as continued in-kind support.

All Murrumbidgee CMA staff have allocated support time for Landcare as part of their workplan. Each of the 12 Murrumbidgee Landcare networks has agreed terms of reference with the Murrumbidgee CMA for their input into the management of Natural Resource Officers.

In partnership with the Landcare Networks, the Murrumbidgee CMA produces regular newsletters for the various networks. The Murrumbidgee CMA also hosts internet sites for the 12 Landcare Networks.

The Murrumbidgee CMA recently hosted the 2009 Murrumbidgee Regional Landcare Awards. Recognition was given to Landcare Groups, individual landcarers, schools and local government. Winners at the regional level were sponsored to attend the NSW Landcare awards and the State Landcare Forum.

Adapting to climate change

The Murrumbidgee CMA's projects to assist landholders adapt to drought and climate change have resulted in:

- 126 landholders trained in preparing for drought
- Installation of fencing, stock feeding and watering infrastructure
- Vegetation management to protect water quality and provide shade for stock

Case study

Hay community tackles river bank erosion



Phragmites were planted near the water line to ensure sufficient water for seedlings survival.

Snapshot:

Location: Murrumbidgee River, Hay
Partners: Murrumbidgee CMA, Hay Trees on Plains Landcare Inc, Hay Ski Club, Hay War Memorial high school, St Marys Primary, Hay community members.

Overview

The Hay Trees on Plains Landcare Group, in collaboration with the local Ski Club, decided to plant Phragmites seedlings along sections of actively eroding areas of the Murrumbidgee riverbank in order to stabilise the banks and prevent further erosion. The local schools and community members were invited to participate.

Approximately one kilometre of the Murrumbidgee riverbank was planted with 4,430 Phragmites seedlings to mitigate erosion and provide habitat for native fish species during four planting days.

These events, and the subsequent media releases, also raised the profile of the natural resource management issues affecting Hay and the surrounding area.

The Phragmites seedlings are now well-established and will be effective in stabilising erosion resulting from the fluctuating water levels.

The community, particularly the school students, are more aware of some of the environmental issues affecting the town. This was demonstrated during the presentation assembly at Hay War Memorial High School.



2009 Murrumbidgee Regional Landcare Awards finalists.

Passion and commitment prove strong at landcare awards

The outstanding contribution of individuals and community groups in improving environmental outcomes for the Murrumbidgee catchment were celebrated at the Murrumbidgee CMA Regional Landcare Awards held at Griffith in March 2009.

The awards were an opportunity for the Murrumbidgee CMA to formally recognise the environmental stewards of the Murrumbidgee catchment, thanking groups and individuals making remarkable contributions to a healthier and sustainable Murrumbidgee catchment.

Murrumbidgee CMA Chairperson, Mr Lee O'Brien, said the extraordinary vision, tireless commitment and personal sacrifice of the entrants, and others like them, that is brightening the future of our catchment.

"It's inspiring to see the high standard of nominee submissions. It proves that ordinary, everyday people are achieving great things - keeping the Landcare ethic alive," said Mr O'Brien.

The 2009 Murrumbidgee Regional Landcare Awards were designed by the Murrumbidgee CMA in collaboration with Landcare Networks from across the catchment.

Winners of the 2009 Murrumbidgee Regional Landcare Awards will enter the NSW Landcare Awards to be held later this year at Port Macquarie.



Tony Catanzariti MLC and John Williams MP with the winners of the Landcare Community Group Award- Harden Murrumburrah Landcare Network members Mark O'Connor, Donna Reid and Peter Holding, and Murrumbidgee CMA Natural Resource officer, Louise Hufton.

Biodiversity



Apostle Bird

“Embracing balance in our natural environment”

Native vegetation is often used as a measure of biodiversity, and the Murrumbidgee catchment is well regarded for the high diversity of native vegetation types. The Murrumbidgee CMA understands the importance of maintaining diversity and balance in our natural systems, and is working with the community to ensure its preservation.

In 2008-09 the Murrumbidgee CMA introduced a new system for improving the preservation of biodiversity by way of introducing a market-based tendering process for landholders through the Box Gum Grassy Woodlands and Lower Murrumbidgee EcoTender projects.

Improving biodiversity in and along our waterways has again been a priority in 2008-09, with willow control and stream bank revegetation projects making major headway in promoting a cleaner, healthier river system.

Almost all projects undertaken by the Murrumbidgee CMA, result in improved biodiversity outcomes to varying degrees. Threatened species protection, both flora and fauna, is a major consideration in the design and targeting of all our projects, as is educating landholders and community about the production benefits of maintaining biodiversity.

Murrumbidgee Catchment Action Plan Targets

- BRCT 1: By 2016 an increase in the area of terrestrial native vegetation classes of the Murrumbidgee catchment managed for biodiversity
- BRCT 2: By 2016 selected threatened species, populations and ecological communities (for both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems) will be managed for biodiversity conservation
- BRCT 3: By 2016 the distribution of priority environmental pest animals within the Murrumbidgee catchment will be restricted using a coordinated approach
- BRCT 4: By 2016 high priority areas affected by priority environmental weeds, including feral native plant species, will be treated within the Murrumbidgee catchment using a coordinated approach

State-wide Resource Condition Targets

- **Target 1:** By 2015 there is an increase in native vegetation extent and an improvement in native vegetation condition
- **Target 2:** By 2015 there is an increase in the number of sustainable populations of a range of native fauna species
- **Target 3:** By 2015 there is an increase in the recovery of threatened species, populations and ecological communities
- **Target 4:** By 2015 there is a reduction in the impact of invasive species

Caring for our Country Targets

- Increasing native habitat
- Reducing the impact of rabbits
- Reducing the impact of weeds

5 year achievements

5 year achievements		
Native vegetation	Area of terrestrial native vegetation enhanced/ rehabilitated	37921 ha
Protecting flora and fauna	Area protected by fencing specifically for significant species or ecological community protection	42628 ha
Managing invasive species	Area of pest plant control measures implemented	42628 ha



'Part Beverly Hills' now produces more biodiversity for the Tarcutta region with grazing exclusion.

Biodiversity Stewardship: The green investment

With the unmistakable force of dry conditions taking its toll on rural properties across the catchment, it's no surprise land managers are looking to diversify into new income streams to supplement their agricultural income.

The Murrumbidgee CMA has seen the value in supporting the trend to diversify, by offering landholders a dollar rate per hectare to retain and actively manage native vegetation on their properties.

Delivered by way of a Property Vegetation Plan, a stewardship agreement is determined on the biodiversity values of the vegetation, with some allowance for future management actions.

The biodiversity value of existing remnant vegetation is very high and this program encourages landholders to invest in securing their existing natural capital.

Case study

Graziers turn to biodiversity production for profit

Overview

Over the next 10 years 'Part Beverly Hills' will be managed for conservation through a biodiversity stewardship with the Murrumbidgee CMA.

The landholders of 'Part Beverly Hills' are using stewardship payments to maintain, protect and enhance large continuous areas of High Conservation Value White Box, Red Ironbark and Stringybark Open Forest.

They are improving and enhancing biodiversity by:

- excluding stock during seed set for target native flora species
- retaining fallen timber, native regrowth and rocks
- controlling weed infestations and feral animals
- maintaining established firebreaks

A significant percentage of the vegetation community on the property has been cleared from its original extent, and up to 39 threatened species are thought to occur on site. The partnership with the Murrumbidgee CMA is helping the Landholders improve the quality and extent of this valuable ecological community, and in turn, improve biodiversity in the area.

Only one year into the project and the Landholders of 'Part Beverly Hills' have noticed dramatic changes to native ground cover, with ever increasing areas of wild flowers and native grasses.

Snapshot:

Location: Carabost Hills ,
South-East Tarcutta

Property: 'Part Beverly Hills'



Protecting vegetation makes good business sense

The Murrumbidgee CMA's *Lower Murrumbidgee EcoTender* was a new initiative in 2008-09 that allowed landholders to bid for funding to improve the quality and extent of remnant priority native vegetation on their properties, in the Lower Murrumbidgee catchment.

As part of the Australian Government's *Caring for our Country* program, the *Lower Murrumbidgee EcoTender* provided Landholders with financial support, for up to 15 years, to establish environmental enterprises that protect and enhance wetlands and threatened wildlife habitat, such as native grasslands for the Plains-wanderer and box gum woodlands and River Red Gum forests for the Superb Parrot.

This market-based approach signalled a new direction for investment in the Murrumbidgee catchment's natural resources, and resulted in the protecting of over 2500 hectares of threatened native vegetation communities.

Case study

Cash for on-farm conservation

Overview

The Davies family were one of ten landholders who were successful in securing funding as part of the *Lower Murrumbidgee EcoTender*.

The Davies family have fenced and protected 24 hectares of very old Rosewood trees. Though a relatively small area, it is quite significant protection of these trees due to the little regeneration of Rosewood trees in the district.

The site is both environmentally and culturally significant, with Aboriginal sites of significance, including traditional camp ovens, present in the area.

Rabbit control and grazing management will be undertaken by the landholders as part of a ten year agreement with the Murrumbidgee CMA. These management actions will assist with revegetation and natural regeneration of the area.

Snapshot:
Location: Hay
Property: 'Walgrove'



Andrew and David Davies discuss their PBP with Murrumbidgee CMA Chair Lee O'Brien on "Walgrove"

Case study

Back grazing paddock reveals endangered treasure



The cluster of Yellow Box on the back paddock at 'Jilliby' revealed an endangered ecological community needing protection.

A return for native assets

Box Gum Grassy Woodland is a distinct ecological community distributed over 405,000 hectares through the wheat/sheep belt of Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria. It is estimated that less than five per cent of the original community remains and much of this is in small isolated patches.

The *Box Gum Grassy Woodland Project* was developed as part of the Australian Government's *Caring for our Country* program, delivered through a partnership between the Murrumbidgee and Lachlan Catchment Management Authorities.

The project was developed to protect the habitat for at least 19 threatened species, including the Superb Parrot, the Swift Parrot and the Tiger Quoll.

Landholders with White box, Yellow Box and Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland were called upon to prepare a bid for funding to protect these assets.

Overview

'Jilliby' owner David Tooke, knew he had a scattering of Yellow Box, Blakely's Red Gum and White Box on his property 'Jilliby', but was not sure if they were suitable for the *Box Gum Grassy Woodland Project*. After a field visit by a Murrumbidgee CMA officer, it became apparent that his back paddock had the right vegetation types to be a perfect candidate for submission.

David submitted a bid and was successful in securing annual environmental stewardship payments to manage and enhance his 16 hectares of Box Gum Grassy Woodland for 15 years. As part of his stewardship responsibilities, David will improve and protect the area by:

- fencing for stock management
- grazing strategically
- controlling weeds and feral animals
- planting locally native seedlings

Before the project, David had his farm on the market ready to sell. After discovering the worth of Box Gum Grassy Woodlands he is now keeping the farm and enjoys a renewed passion for balancing production with improving the environmental health on 'Jilliby'. His integrated approach has improved dams, creeks and vegetation by protecting remnants, fencing and revegetating 16 kilometers of creek, linking tree corridors and fencing dams to create small wetland areas.

Snapshot:

Location: North of Humula
Property: 'Jilliby'

Protecting Narrandera's Koala Population

A specialised Koala-proof fencing project has been supported by the Murrumbidgee CMA to prevent Koalas being killed when crossing the Newell Highway at Narrandera.

The Murrumbidgee CMA has joined the Narrandera Koala Regeneration Centre Supervisory Committee, Department of Environment and Climate Change and Narrandera Shire Council to improve the management of this precious Koala colony.

Koalas regularly move along the extensive corridors of the Murrumbidgee River and wetlands at Narrandera, with up to 8 Koalas killed along this section of the highway annually. In recent years, the impact of drought has increased the Koala movement, as they search for food, mating partners and security.



Motorists posed a serious threat to Narrandera's Koala colony

Protective fencing works involved the completion of rigid steel fencing adjacent to footpaths and irrigation infrastructure. These works included the construction of Koala-proof chain-wire fencing across floodplain land, adjacent road and river entry and exit areas. Hazard warning signage was also installed to educate motorists and visitors about Koalas.

Completion of the project resulted in further development of critical river side, wetland and high use recreation land with Narrandera Shire Council, complementing other Murrumbidgee CMA supported works in adjacent and connected areas, including storm water management wetlands, major willow removal activities and indigenous managed river restoration work programs.

The Narrandera community was active in supporting the project, undertaking significant voluntary work to construct the fence and to ensure on-ground activities were carried out smoothly.



Willows infestations had prevented healthy river flow and native vegetation growth at 'Greenfield Farm'

Renewing the Yass River Biodiversity

In early 2006, a collaborative project was established between the Murrumbidgee CMA, Yass Area Network of Landcare Groups, Yass Council and local landholders to improve the biodiversity and water quality of the Yass River system.

The Yass River supplies the town water requirements for Yass and the surrounding villages of Bowning and Binalong. The river was identified as having highly modified and depleted stream-side vegetation, large infestations of weeds (mainly willows), areas of riverbank erosion and uncontrolled stock access to the river. Project sites were prioritised for restoration on the reaches of Yass River with the focus on sites which would deliver the best biodiversity outcomes for minimal investment and areas identified by the community as a priority for treatment.

Restoration of sites included re-establishing native vegetation, removing willow infestations, constructing management fencing for grazing control and providing alternative stock water supply, controlling bank erosion along with bank stabilisation works.

Very positive feedback has been received from landholders and the wider community regarding the restoration works along the Yass River.



The Yass River at 'Greenfield Farm' is flowing once again thanks to willow control works

Case study

Healthy river-flow restored

Overview

'Greenfield Farm' is one of ten Yass properties that have undertaken a Property Vegetation Plan to specifically address the management of stream banks along the Yass River.

Willows were removed from 2.7 kilometres of riverbank on 'Greenfield Farm' followed by the construction of fencing to exclude grazing stock from the stream banks, as well as revegetating the area with local native trees and shrubs. An alternative water supply of a dam, tank and six troughs was also constructed, to enable adequate stock water supply.

Removal of willows from the Yass River has improved the health and aquatic habitat of the river by reducing sedimentation, reducing annual nutrient loads, improving river side biodiversity through vegetation management and revegetation. 'Greenfield Farm' is directly opposite and adjacent to other Yass River works and is value adding to the work on upstream and downstream properties in this priority reach of the Yass River. Together this ensures large stretches of the priority reach of the Yass River are now free of weeds and provide a continuous corridor of native river side vegetation.

Snapshot:

Location: South-east Yass
Property: 'Greenfield Farm'

The Murrumbidgee CMA has partnered with private landholders and councils throughout the Murrumbidgee catchment to:

- Remove 70km willows along the Murrumbidgee River
- Revegetate 100ha of stream bank
- Fence and protect 60ha of creek and river bank

Landasset



River Red Gum forest along the Murrumbidgee River, Yanco

“Looking after the land that looks after you”

A significant focus of the Murrumbidgee CMA in the land asset is to improve overall soil health to increase the resilience of our farming systems to the likely impacts of climate change and seasonal climate variability. This will also ensure improved productivity through higher stocking rates and improved nutritional value of groundcover. Longer pasture phases in cropping rotation and increased perennality in grazing paddocks will also ensure reduced landscape degradation including soil erosion and dryland salinity.

In 2008-09 the Murrumbidgee CMA has continued to work with landholders to reduce the prevalence of dryland salinity and improve water quality in the Murrumbidgee River. A targeted sub catchment approach has been used to address areas contributing the greatest amount of salt into the Murrumbidgee system. Within these priority sub-catchments a combination of revegetation, grazing management and strategic infrastructure changes, are achieving positive outcomes in managing salinity and complementing on-farm production and biodiversity benefits.

Improved grazing management and the reconfiguration of paddocks to reflect land capability has also been a significant focus for the Murrumbidgee CMA in 2008-09. This has involved supporting landholders to change their management to maintain healthy groundcover for longer periods of time and thereby reduce soil erosion, increase biodiversity in pasture species and reduce impact of salinity. The Murrumbidgee CMA has also assisted land managers access training in best management practices so they can combine on-ground works and improved management to adopt more sustainable grazing regimes.

2008-09 has seen the continuation of a partnership between the Murrumbidgee CMA and Murrumbidgee and Coleambally irrigation corporations in the Murrumbidgee catchment. This partnership is vital in minimising the impacts of irrigation salinity on our landscape, increase water use efficiency and improved biodiversity outcomes.

Murrumbidgee Catchment Action Plan Targets

- LRCT 1: Support sustainable farming enterprises by improving key soil health indicators
- LRCT 2: Improved water use efficiency within cropping systems
- LRCT 3: Reduce the extent of dryland salinity and outbreaks
- LRCT 4: Increase the perennial content in both grazing systems and the pasture phase of farming systems

State-wide Resource Condition Targets

- Target 10: by 2015 there is an improvement in soil condition
- Target 11: By 2015 there is an increase of the area of land that is managed within its capability

Caring for our Country Targets

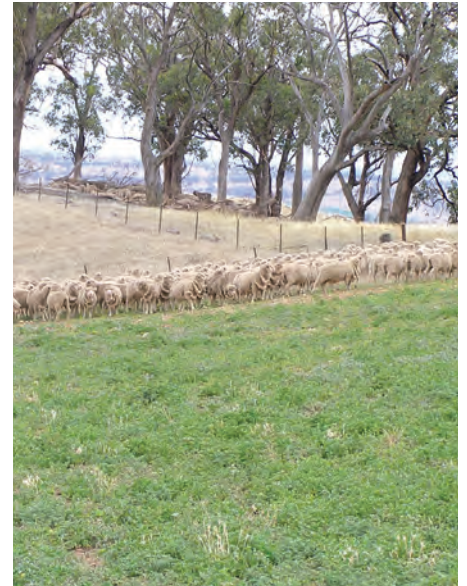
- Improving land management practices
- Increasing landscape scale conservation
- Improving knowledge and skills of land managers

5 year achievements

5 year achievements		
Soil erosion prevention	Area of land treated and/or protected from soil erosion by engineering works	324 ha
Soil Management	Area of soil treatment for other than erosion or acid sulphate soils	450 000 ha

Case study

Assessing the impacts of alternate fertilizers



Merino ewes graze lucerne during joining to test for a boost in conception rates

Evergraze in the Murrumbidgee

The Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority's Evergraze project has benefited landholders trying to increase livestock profitability and long term pasture sustainability.

The project commenced in January 2006 and builds on research undertaken by Charles Sturt University and the NSW Department of Primary Industries.

Targeting high rainfall (above 550mm) grazing areas of the Murrumbidgee catchment, the project aims to increase perennial vegetation to control recharge and therefore address dryland salinity in mid to upper areas of the catchment.

The project also helps landholders understand the production and sustainability benefits of perennial systems, including pasture and shrubs.

This program builds landholders capacity to apply sustainable natural resource management practices that will benefit both production and environmental outcomes.

Overview

The Murrumbidgee CMA has three replicated demonstration sites, designed to assess the impacts (positive, negative or nil) that alternative fertilisers have on native perennial pastures.

The demonstration sites are used to provide landholders information on the positive soil and pasture benefits that may be derived from the application of non-traditional fertiliser products.

One of the three demonstration sites is on the Bookham property 'Glen Iris'. Ten different commercially available and organically derived fertilisers have been applied to a native perennial pasture and the site monitored to determine differences in plant growth and soil parameters under the varying products applied.

On-going monitoring of demonstration sites will take place until 2012. This monitoring data will be collated to help landholders make fertiliser decisions that will aid native pasture production and benefit the environment.

Snapshot:

Location: Bookham

Property: 'Glen Iris'

Case study

Don't let the grass get too low

Grazing Management training for sustainability and profitability

A number of the incentives offered by the Murrumbidgee CMA involved improved management of native, introduced perennial pastures and the adoption of more sustainable grazing management practices – the outcomes of these improvements being erosion, biodiversity, salinity and water quality benefits. To ensure landholders had the capacity to improve the management of their pastures the Murrumbidgee CMA provided a range of grazing management training options to landholders.

Landholders who entered into a Property Vegetation Plan to improve and manage perennial pastures, where required to undertake training in grazing management as a pre-requisite. The training was delivered in various locations across the Catchment, with approximately 150 landholders participating.

Better grazing management and an increase in native perennial pasture has multiple benefits, such as improving the overall biodiversity and sustainability of grazed lands. An increase of perennial species, both native and introduced can result in increased soil water usage and consequently a decrease in dryland salinity. Perennials act as important groundcover and can help to reduce the occurrence of erosion.

Overview

Victoria Fowler and her family signed up for an incentive PVP with the Murrumbidgee CMA that included strategic grazing management.

Victoria is one of a new generation of famers who are looking for new ways to balance the sustainability and profitability of their farming system.

The grazing management PVP was specifically related to the 540ha of native perennial grass land on the property, however, Victoria undertook Prograze™ training to manage all grazed areas on the property.

Prograze™ training gave Victoria the skills to manage new grazing regimes on all pastures, both native and non-native. The area of native perennial pasture was subdivided to allow the implementation of more strategic grazing.

Victoria said that course was a “real eye opener” and that she had learnt the importance of understanding pasture growth and quality, and the need to give strategic rests at different times of the growing season.



Victoria and her family have noticed a significant increase in native pastures and decline in Paterson's curse since implementing management techniques from the ProGraze training.

Snapshot:

Location: Harefield

Property: 'Kooroogong'

Since 2004, the Murrumbidgee CMA has assisted:

- Land managers improve 12,000ha through grazing management
- Install alternative stock watering troughs
- 746 land managers access training to improve grazing management practices.

Case study

Grasses and tree planting – A remedy for salt

Sub-catchment Salinity

Salinity is still a major environmental problem facing Australian agriculture, causing losses in crop and pasture production. Salinity also affects remnant vegetation, stream and river dependant eco-systems and contributes to erosion. Through extensive research, monitoring and on-site assessments, the Murrumbidgee CMA has identified the 'hot spot' sub-catchments generating the majority of the salinity problems throughout the catchment.

Since 2005, the Murrumbidgee CMA has worked with landholders in these targeted sub-catchments of Yass, Jugiong, Muttama, Cooneys, Tarcutta and Kyemba catchments, to address the effects of dryland salinity, with funding from the Australian and NSW Government's *National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality*.

Landholders have entered into Property Vegetation Plan agreements with the Murrumbidgee CMA to implement on-ground activities in specific parts of the landscape to address salinity. These include planting salt tolerant plants and other native vegetation, improving pasture management, rehabilitating discharge sites, erosion control and management of riparian areas, adjacent to rivers and streams.

Overview

Garry and Elaine Kelly implemented an incentive PVP with the Murrumbidgee CMA to revegetate several gullies and establish a saline pasture.

Over 6000 native trees and shrubs were planted along gullies to address erosion problems and provide shelter belts for stock.

As part of the PVP the Kelly's also established a 12ha saline pasture to increase and improve groundcover in a paddock that had previously been almost entirely bare, but for an infestation of wire weed.

To enable the implementation of more strategic grazing, 5km of new fencing was constructed and three alternative stock watering points were established.

Garry said "Without the Murrumbidgee CMA funding we would not have been able to carry out the project – particularly on such a large scale."

He was particularly pleased with the establishment of the saline pasture as it has transformed what was once a bare, unproductive piece of land into a well-covered, productive paddock.



The establishment of a saline pasture has seen a bare, unuseable piece of "Jakara" transformed into a well-covered, productive paddock.

Snapshot:

Location: Cootamundra
Property: 'Jakara'

The Murrumbidgee CMA's partnerships with landholders to address dryland salinity have resulted in:

- 15km fencing constructed to rehabilitate and protect streams
- 2,400ha native trees planted to address dryland salinity
- Installment of alternative stock watering troughs to protect river health



Grape Vine irrigation, Griffith

Environmental focus for irrigators

The Murrumbidgee CMA has maintained extremely strong partnerships with Murrumbidgee Irrigation Limited and Coleambally Irrigation Limited. These partnerships have focussed on reducing the volume of salt in water that drains from the irrigation areas to the Murrumbidgee River, and generally adopting more sustainable irrigation practices through the implementation of the Land and Water Management Plans (LWMP) developed by each Corporation.

This year the Murrumbidgee CMA has delivered over \$2,600,000 for LWMPs, with funding from the Australian and NSW governments. LWMPs achieve water efficiency, biodiversity and improved land management practices through strategic training and incentives for producers in the irrigation areas of the Murrumbidgee catchment.

Case study

Valuing native assets

Murrumbidgee

Murrumbidgee Irrigation's EnviroWise program provides incentives to MI customers to promote natural resource management, with the aim to improve the overall health of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area environment. Since the inception of Murrumbidgee Irrigation's EnviroWise program in 2000 over 880ha of biodiversity enhancements have been completed and more than 1420 land managers have completed the FarmWise education program – building their capacity to improve water and natural resource management and implement best management practices.



River Red Gum communities in the MIA are being protected and enhanced through MI's BioTender

Overview

In the first round of the *BioTender* in 2008 Bruce and Julie Armstrong of 'Corynnia Station' tendered to protect and enhance their 415ha swamp of remnant Black Box and Lignum to encourage more birdlife, bats, reptiles and other native species on the site.

They tendered for MI's *BioTender* stewardship program to enhance the site, using the funds to clean up a large rubbish dump area and undertake weed reduction and management. The Armstrong's also reduce stock to strategic grazing levels and maintained the site as a conservation zone by retaining dead and fallen timber and regrowth.

The Armstrongs are already reporting an increase in birdlife with two new nesting wedge-tailed eagles and increasing numbers of ant eaters.

It is hoped through the stewardship tender program, the scarce remnant vegetation of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area will be protected and improved.

Snapshot:

Location: Wahwah

Property: 'Corynnia Station'



Primary School Students attend CIBR Field Day

Coleambally

The implementation of the Coleambally LWMPs are a successful demonstration of community, government and industry partnership in sustainable management of the natural resources of with increase in efficiency and productivity.

The Implementation program consists of on-farm works for which CICL administers the incentive program.

Major achievements of the Coleambally LWMP include:

- watertable within the CIA has declined to an average 6.0m from 2.0 m
- salt and chemical discharge to the CIA creek system has been reduced to almost zero
- 470 hectares of land has been protected and enhanced for biodiversity on 20 properties
- 85% of farms within CIA now have a drainage water recycle system that keeps chemicals out of the natural creek and river system.

Overview

In March 2006, the NSW Government created the Coleambally Irrigation Biodiversity Reserve (CIBR). The Reserve is managed for environmental protection and Coleambally Irrigation has been appointed to manage the Reserve Trust.

Since establishment of the Trust, Coleambally Irrigation and the Department of Lands have undertaken a PVP with the Murrumbidgee CMA. The agreement provides Coleambally Irrigation with funding to undertake a range of activities including native plant revegetation, pest and weed control, bushfire management and fencing.

In the last two years Coleambally Irrigation has managed about 1600 hectares of land under the Trust in 11 separate blocks (ranging from 40ha to 400ha).

Coleambally Irrigation Biodiversity Officer Mark Robb says in the last two years a lot of regeneration has taken place and the weed control and pest control has worked very effectively.

CEO John Culleton of CICL inspects the completed Recycle System on a Coleambally farm owned by Jim and John White



Snapshot:

Location: Coleambally

Project Site: *Coleambally Irrigation Biodiversity Reserve*

Case study

Restored reserve becomes educational hub

These Trust blocks are now being used by the local community for educational and tourism purposes. Several school groups, farmers, tourists and other groups interested in natural environment have visited and appreciated the management of Trust land.

Water_{asset}



Murrumbidgee River, Adaminaby

“Looking after the lifeblood of the Catchment”

The Murrumbidgee River is the third largest river in Australia. It supports a unique set of plants and animals and landscapes – many of national and international significance. The Murrumbidgee is one of the most reliable water sources in the Murray Darling Basin, and supports vast areas of food and fibre production, as well as over a million people.

There are many threats to the health of the river and the Murrumbidgee makes up a big part of what is a listed Threatened Ecological Community in NSW. High sediment loads cause a decline in the health of a river. The Murrumbidgee CMA is working to reduce sediment entering the Murrumbidgee River by protecting stream banks from over-grazing and stream bank erosion.

The management of groundwater resources continues to be a high priority for the community of the Murrumbidgee catchment. The Murrumbidgee CMA works with communities, local government, the NSW and Australian governments, and private users of groundwater to find solutions to sharing the resource.

The wetlands of the Murrumbidgee act as the lungs of the river system. The unique communities of plants and animals in the wetlands of the Murrumbidgee are critical to the long term health and biodiversity of the river. The Murrumbidgee CMA understands the pressures on wetlands, including demand for water, and is working to protect and restore wetlands across the catchment.

Murrumbidgee Catchment Action Plan Targets

- WRCT 1: By 2016 predicted annual average suspended sediment levels in the Murrumbidgee River are reduced by 15%
- WRCT 2: By 2016 river salinity at Balranald is less than 245EC for 50% of the time and less than 320EC for 80% of the time
- WRCT 4: By 2016 the extent (hectares), diversity, condition and connectivity of inland aquatic systems is increased

State-wide Resource Condition Targets

- Target 5: By 2015 there is an improvement in the condition of riverine ecosystems

Caring for our Country Targets

- Protecting Ramsar wetlands

5 year achievements

Riparian areas	Area of terrestrial native vegetation enhanced/rehabilitated	3687 ha
Wetlands	Area of wetland native vegetation enhanced/rehabilitated	1099 ha

Case study

From tired old creek to ecological oasis

Overview

Spring Creek feeds directly into Tarcutta Creek, a tributary to the Murrumbidgee River. After hearing about the river restoration project, 'Spring Gully' owner Reg Meigel knew it was the perfect thing to revitalize the tired old creek that cut his property in two. Stock had free run over the creek and Reg could see the banks erode after rain. The provision of alternate water made fencing out the creek all the more feasible.

Reg decided that the entire 1.3 kilometre stretch of Spring Creek would need to be fenced out and planted to protect the banks and improve water quality. The 9.4 hectare area was fenced and planted with 3220 trees and shrubs. Water tanks and troughs were also provided on both sides of the creek.

Reg has been amazed at the number of different plants growing on there now since fencing out the creek. By excluding stock the plants are doing a great job in holding the banks together and clearing the water, the creek is also full of frog and bird activity.



A year later, creek water is clearer, planted trees are 2 meters tall and banks are naturally regenerating.

Snapshot:

Location: South-East Tarcutta
Property: 'Spring Gully'



Before the project Spring Creek was eroding and had insufficient vegetation on its banks.

“Both gullies were re vegetated with over 600 native trees and shrubs, further strengthening structural engineering for long-term erosion control”

Case study

Stopping gully erosion in its tracks

Sizeable solutions for a serious problem

The Murrumbidgee CMA has been actively addressing stream-side zones that are particularly degraded due to erosion, to reduce sediment and nutrient loads and improve water quality in rivers of the Murrumbidgee Catchment.

Restoration and protection activities implemented have included major structural engineering control works, construction of fencing to protect streams and native revegetation.

Specific erosion sites were initially identified through a study of stream reaches that had the highest potential to deliver sediment and nutrients to the Murrumbidgee River system. Landholders in these targeted areas were approached to enter into a Property Vegetation Plan to provide incentive funding for the structural erosion control and revegetation works.

Structural erosion control works have been constructed at total of 22 sites. Each of these sites were fenced to manage stock access and revegetated with native plants. A total of 50km of stream-side land has been restored and protected.

Overview

Tanya and Robert Nokaes had ambitions to plant more trees on their Michelago property, to improve biodiversity and address gully erosion problems. With the property situated in a Murrumbidgee CMA targeted area for waterway erosion, the Noakes' were eligible to receive incentive funding for engineering works to control two severely eroded gullies.

The larger, and more degraded, of the two gullies had eroded 140 metres of the surrounding valley. The gully extends to a tributary that runs into the Murrumbidgee River, which would have ultimately delivered sediment directly to the river. Sediment run-off from eroded gullies such as this significantly contributes to water quality decline in our river systems. As part of the Noakes' PVP agreement with the Murrumbidgee CMA, a rock chute was constructed to stabilise the main gully. A rock bar was secured at the bottom of the chute to pond water and trap sediment before it reaches the river.



A rock chute was constructed to address severe gully erosion problems

Both gullies were revegetated with over 600 native trees and shrubs, further strengthening structural engineering for long-term erosion control. The Noakes' will continue to monitor and manage weeds and exclude stock from the gullies to ensure maximum results from the erosion control works.

Snapshot:

Location: Michelago

Since 2004, Murrumbidgee CMA engineering projects have resulted in:

- 11km stream bank erosion stabilised
- 820km stream-side vegetation protected and enhanced
- Improved water quality in the Murrumbidgee River



Fivebough Swamp, Leeton

Keeping the lungs of the Murrumbidgee river healthy

Wetlands act as the sponges and filters of the catchment's water resources and are vital for their critical roles in maintaining water quality and balance within the Murrumbidgee catchment. They improve water quality by capturing sediment and recycling nutrients and support a diversity of aquatic and terrestrial plants and animals by providing water and habitat for their survival.

Wetlands can become degraded through changes in land use and are often a critical part of livestock production by providing water and grazing opportunities for landholders. Recognising the importance of wetlands, the Murrumbidgee CMA provides incentives to encourage landholders to protect wetlands by providing incentives to fence and install alternative watering infrastructure, removing invasive plants species such as willows, helps re-establish wetland plant species, and continues to acquire and consolidate wetland information.

Farmers, local governments and community members across the Murrumbidgee catchment have engaged in activities that have raised awareness and knowledge about wetlands and helped in protection and rehabilitation. On grounds works have included removal of mature willows, revegetation, fencing and installation of alternative watering systems.

The Indigenous community has been reconnected to country through projects with local governments that improve the riparian environmental along the Murrumbidgee and Tumut Rivers.



Case study

Protecting regional wetlands

Although pictured dry, 'The Swamp' at "The Bull's Run" is a natural depression in the landscape which fills periodically with local storm run-off.

Overview

'The Bulls Run' is a large property on the Murrumbidgee floodplain. It hosts many wetlands and billabongs, especially close to the river on the southern boundaries of the property. As the owners of 'The Bulls Run', Paraway Pastoral Company has a Property Vegetation Plan with the Murrumbidgee CMA to protect these wetlands and billabongs.

One of the most significant wetlands in the agreement is the large wetland on the Old Narrandera Road, locally known as 'The Swamp'. This wetland is very important regionally because it has a basin of 127ha and is surrounded by an additional 148ha of fenced River Red Gum woodland. This makes 'The Swamp' the largest floodplain wetland under a PVP in the mid Murrumbidgee.

Although it is on the floodplain, 'The Swamp' fills more frequently from local runoff and provides valuable breeding opportunities when the Murrumbidgee River is not in flood.

The Murrumbidgee CMA has helped conserve this valuable wetland by providing stewardship payments to help control weeds and stock movement in the wetland basin. Weeds have become a major problem at 'The Swamp' since the extended dry period from 2003.

Wetlands like 'The Swamp' will serve as valuable refugia for many wetland species in the predicted future of a drier climate in the Murrumbidgee.

Snapshot:

Location: Lower Murrumbidgee

Property: 'The Bulls Run'



Murrumbidgee CMA Chairperson Mr Lee O'Brien officially launching the Murrumbidgee Wetlands Resource Book with members of the Board and community, at Cooma

Murrumbidgee Wetlands Book- A Valuable Resource

The Murrumbidgee Wetlands Resource Book was launched by Murrumbidgee CMA Chairperson, Mr Lee O'Brien, beside the River at a reserve outside of Cooma.

The book was put together largely by Murrumbidgee CMA Wetlands expert, Dr Patricia Murray, and contains useful maps and data for any one who wants to learn more about wetlands of the Murrumbidgee.

"Wetlands are often misunderstood," said author Pat Murray. "Names given to them include marsh, swamp, billabong, clay pans, bog, fen, peatland or that boggy patch in the back paddock."

The Murrumbidgee Wetlands Resource Book is a valuable aid for natural resource management professionals, local government, schools and universities.

Detailed maps reveal the locations of the many wetlands within the Murrumbidgee catchment between Wagga Wagga and Hay, an area which includes three wetlands recognised in international agreements.

The production of resources such as the Murrumbidgee Wetlands Resource Book are helping to improve habitat conditions for many water birds, such as the iconic 'dancing' Brolga, the rare and threatened Freckled Duck and migratory species such as the Black-tailed Godwit, which are listed under international agreements with countries such as China and Japan.

"The Murrumbidgee Catchment Action Plan, a document based on extensive community consultation, will direct improvements in the condition of approximately 400 hectares of

Murrumbidgee River floodplain billabongs and maintain the extent and improve the ecological character of 1,800 hectares of other wetlands by 2016," said Lee O'Brien.

The Murrumbidgee Wetlands Resource Book provides a wealth of data with which to inform decisions about the Murrumbidgee catchment and to balance the needs of both wetlands and irrigation. In fact, the technical information contained within the Resource Book is already being used to build a decision support system for improved wetland management.



Financialreport



Assessing a tree planting site, Murrumbateman

For the financial year ended 30 June 2009

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STATEMENT BY BOARD MEMBERS

Certificate under Section 41 C (1B) and (1C) of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983

Pursuant to the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983, we declare that in our opinion:

- (a) The accompanying financial report exhibits a true and fair view of the financial position of the Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority as at 30 June 2009, and transactions for the year ended.
- (b) The financial report has been prepared in accordance with:
 - The applicable Australian Accounting Standards, which include Australian Accounting Interpretations; and
 - The requirements of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983, the Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2005 and the Treasurer's Directions.
- (c) There are no circumstances which would render any particulars included in the financial report to be misleading or inaccurate.

For and on behalf of the Board



Lee O'Brien
Chairman



Joe Burns
Board Member

Dated: 16 October 2009



GPO BOX 12
Sydney NSW 2001

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority

To Members of the New South Wales Parliament

I have audited the accompanying financial report of Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority (the Authority), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2009, the income statement, statement of recognised income and expense and cash flow statement for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report:

- presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Authority as at 30 June 2009, and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations)
- is in accordance with section 41B of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983* (the PF&A Act) and the Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2005.

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

The Board's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The members of the Board are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the PF&A Act. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to the Authority's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal controls. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Authority, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

My opinion does *not* provide assurance:

- about the future viability of the Authority,
- that it has carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically, or
- about the effectiveness of its internal controls.

Independence

In conducting this audit, the Audit Office of New South Wales has complied with the independence requirements of the Australian Auditing Standards and other relevant ethical requirements. The PF&A Act further promotes independence by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General, and
- mandating the Auditor-General as auditor of public sector agencies but precluding the provision of non-audit services, thus ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office of New South Wales are not compromised in their role by the possibility of losing clients or income.



MT Spriggins
Director, Financial Audit Services

16 October 2009
SYDNEY

Start of audited financial report

Income Statement for the year ended 30 June 2009

	NOTES	Actual 2009 \$'000	Actual 2008 \$'000
Revenue			
Revenue	3	22,544	21,851
Other income	4	2,584	1,852
Total revenue		25,128	23,703
Expenses			
Personnel services expenses	5	5,156	5,744
Other operating expenses	5	13,297	13,678
Depreciation	5	54	50
Grants & subsidies	5	7,877	17,938
Total expenses		26,384	37,410
DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR	11	(1,256)	(13,707)

The above income statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached notes.

Statement of Recognised Income and Expense for the year ended 30 June 2009

	NOTE	Actual 2009 \$'000	Actual 2008 \$'000
TOTAL INCOME AND EXPENSE RECOGNISED DIRECTLY IN EQUITY			
Deficit for the year	11	(1,256)	(13,707)
TOTAL RECOGNISED INCOME AND EXPENSE FOR THE YEAR		(1,256)	(13,707)

The above statement of recognised income and expense is to be read in conjunction with the attached notes.

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2009

	NOTES	Actual 2009 \$'000	Actual 2008 \$'000
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	6,224	13,287
Receivables	7	753	753
Total current assets		6,977	14,040
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment			
Leasehold Improvements	8	151	172
Plant and equipment	8	90	108
Total non-current assets		241	280
Total assets		7,218	14,320
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Payables	9	6,167	11,961
Provisions	10	624	678
Total Current Liabilities		6,791	12,639
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	10	7	5
Total non-current liabilities		7	5
Total liabilities		6,798	12,644
Net assets		420	1,676
EQUITY			
Retained surplus	11	420	1,676
Total equity		420	1,676

The above balance sheet is to be read in conjunction with the attached notes.

Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 30 June 2009

	NOTES	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from customers & government		26,641	23,922
Payments to suppliers		(26,547)	(15,425)
		94	8,497
Grants and subsidies paid		(7,877)	(17,938)
Interest received		750	1,269
Net cash flows from operating activities	12	(7,033)	(8,172)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment & intangibles		(30)	-
Net cash flows from investing activities		(30)	-
Net (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(7,063)	(8,172)
Opening cash and cash equivalents		13,287	21,459
Closing cash and cash equivalents	6	6,224	13,287

The above cash flow statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached notes.

Notes to and forming part of the financial report

for the year ended 30 June 2009

Note 1 - Reporting entity

The Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority (the Authority) was established pursuant to the Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003. The objects of the Act are:

- (a) to establish Authorities for the purpose of devolving operational, investment and decision-making natural resource functions to catchment levels;
- (b) to provide for proper natural resource planning at a catchment level;
- (c) to ensure that decisions about natural resources take into account appropriate catchment issues;
- (d) to require decisions taken at a catchment level to take into account State-wide standards and to involve the Natural Resources Commission in catchment planning where appropriate;
- (e) to involve communities in each catchment in decision making and to make best use of catchment knowledge and expertise;
- (f) to ensure the proper management of natural resources in the social, economic and environmental interests of the State;
- (g) to apply sound scientific knowledge to achieve a fully functioning and productive landscape; and
- (h) to provide a framework for financial assistance and incentives to landholders in connection with natural resource management.

The Authority is a Statutory Body and a separate reporting entity. There are no other entities under its control. The reporting entity is consolidated as part of the NSW Total State Sector Accounts.

The Authority is a not-for-profit entity (as profit is not its principal objective) and it has no cash-generating units.

This financial report has been authorised for issue by the Board of the Authority on 16 October 2009.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following significant policies have been adopted in the preparation and presentation of the financial report:

(a) Basis of preparation

The Authority's financial report is a general purpose financial report which has been prepared in accordance with:

- The applicable Australian Accounting Standards, which include Australian Accounting Interpretations;
- The requirements of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983 and Regulation and ;

Property, plant and equipment, assets (or disposal groups) held for sale and financial assets at 'fair value through profit or loss' and available for sale are measured at fair value. Other financial report items are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

All amounts are rounded to the nearest one thousand dollars and are expressed in Australian currency.

(b) Statement of compliance

The financial report and notes comply with the Australian Accounting Standards, which include Australian Accounting Interpretations.

(c) Significant accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions

(i) Significant accounting judgement

In the preparation of the financial statements, management is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis of making the judgements. Actual results may vary from these estimates.

Key judgements are disclosed as part of accounting policies notes.

(ii) Significant accounting estimates and assumptions

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods. Judgements made by management in the application of the Australian Accounting Standards that have significant effects on the financial statements and estimates, with a significant risk of material adjustments in the next year are disclosed, where applicable, in the relevant notes to the financial statements.

(d) Revenue recognition

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration or contribution received or receivable. Additional comments regarding the accounting policies for the recognition of revenue are discussed below:

- (i) Contributions from Government and other bodies are generally recognised as income when the agency obtains control over the assets comprising the contributions. Control over contributions is normally obtained upon the receipt of cash.
- (ii) Sale of Goods: Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised as revenue when the agency transfers the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the assets.
- (iii) Rendering of Services: Revenue is recognised when the service is provided or by reference to the stage of completion (based on labour hours incurred to date).
- (iv) Investment Income: Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method as set out in AASB 139 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement.

(e) Insurance

The Authority's activities are insured through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund scheme of self insurance for Government agencies. The expense (premium) is determined by the Fund Manager based on past experience and the insurance coverage is reviewed periodically to ensure that it is adequate.

(f) Accounting for the Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except that:

- The amount of GST incurred by the Authority as a purchaser that is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of an asset or as part of an item of expense.
- Receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included.

The net amount of GST recoverable from or payable to the Australian Taxation Office is included as part of receivables and payables.

Cash flows are included in the cash flow statement on a gross basis. However, the GST components of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the Australian Taxation Office are classified as operating cash flows.

(g) Acquisition of assets

The cost method of accounting is used for the initial recording of all acquisitions of assets controlled by the Authority. Cost is the amount of cash or cash equivalents paid or the fair value of the other consideration given to acquire the asset at the time of its acquisition or construction or, where applicable, the amount attributed to the asset when initially recognised in accordance with the specific requirements of other Australian Accounting Standards.

Assets acquired at no cost, or for nominal consideration, are initially recognised as assets and revenues at their fair value at the date of acquisition. Fair value is the amount for which an asset could be exchanged between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arm's length transaction.

Where payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal credit terms, its cost is the cash price equivalent, i.e. deferred payment amount is effectively discounted at an asset-specific rate.

(h) Capitalisation thresholds

Property, plant and equipment and intangible assets costing \$5,000 and above individually (or forming part of a network costing more than \$5,000) are capitalised. All amounts below \$5,000 are expensed to profit and loss as incurred.

(i) Revaluation of property, plant and equipment

Physical non-current assets are valued in accordance with the "Valuation of Physical Non-Current Assets at Fair Value" Policy and Guidelines Paper (TPP 07-01). This policy adopts fair value in accordance with AASB 116 Property, Plant and Equipment and AASB 140 Investment Property.

Property, plant and equipment is measured on an existing use basis, where there are no feasible alternative uses in the existing natural, legal, financial and socio-political environment. However, in the limited circumstances where there are feasible alternative uses, assets are valued at their higher and best use.

Fair value of property, plant and equipment is determined based on the best available market evidence, including current market selling price for the same or similar assets. Where there is no available market evidence, the asset's fair value is measured at its market buying price, the best indicator of which is depreciated replacement cost.

(i) Revaluation of property, plant and equipment (continued)

The Authority revalues each class of property, plant and equipment at least every five years or with sufficient regularity to ensure that the carrying amount of each asset in the class does not differ materially from its fair value at reporting date.

Non-specialised assets with short useful lives are measured at depreciated historical cost, as a surrogate for fair value.

When revaluing non-current assets by reference to current prices for assets newer than those being revalued (adjusted to reflect the present condition of the assets), the gross amount and the related accumulated depreciation are separately restated.

For other assets, any balances of accumulated depreciation at the revaluation date in respect of those assets are credited to the asset accounts to which they relate. The net assets accounts are then increased or decreased by the revaluation increments or decrements.

Revaluation increments are credited directly to the asset revaluation reserve, except that, to the extent that an increment reverses a revaluation decrement in respect of that class of asset previously recognised as an expense in the surplus/deficit, the increment is recognised immediately as revenue in the surplus/deficit.

Revaluation decrements are recognised immediately as expenses in the surplus/deficit, except that, to the extent that a credit balance exists in the asset revaluation reserve in respect of the same class of asset, they are debited directly to the asset revaluation reserve.

As a not-for-profit entity, revaluation increments and decrements are offset against one another within a class of non-current assets but not otherwise.

Where an asset that has previously been revalued is disposed of, any balance remaining in the asset revaluation reserve in respect of that asset is transferred to accumulated funds.

(j) Impairment of property, plant and equipment

As a not-for-profit entity with no cash-generating units, the Authority is effectively exempt for AASB 136 Impairment of assets and impairment testing. This is because AASB 136 modifies the recoverable amount test to the higher of fair value less costs to sell and depreciated replacement cost. This means that, for an asset already measured at fair value, impairment can only arise if selling costs are material. Selling costs are regarded as immaterial.

(k) Depreciation of property, plant and equipment

Depreciation is provided for on a straight line basis for all depreciable assets, as detailed below, so as to write off the depreciable amount of each asset as it is consumed over its useful life to the Authority.

All material separately identifiable components of assets are depreciated over their shorter useful lives. Estimates of remaining useful lives are made on a regular basis for all assets, with annual reassessments for major items.

Land is not a depreciable asset.

The following depreciation rates were applied in 2008/09 and 2007/08:

Plant and equipment:

Computer equipment	25%
Other plant and equipment	6.67%-25%

(l) Major inspection costs

When each major inspection is performed, the labour cost of performing inspections for faults is recognised in the carrying amount of an asset as a replacement of a part, if the recognition criteria are satisfied.

(m) Restoration costs

The estimated cost of dismantling and removing an asset and restoring the site is included in the cost of an asset, to the extent it is recognised as a liability.

(n) Maintenance

The day-to-day servicing or maintenance costs are charged as expenses as incurred, except where they relate to the replacement of a part or component of an asset, in which case the costs are capitalised and depreciated.

(o) Investments

Investments are initially recognised at fair value plus, in the case of investments not at fair value through profit or loss, transactions costs. The Authority determines the classification of its financial assets after initial recognition and, when allowed and appropriate, re-evaluates this at each financial year end.

- Fair value through profit or loss-The Hour-Glass Investment Facilities are designated at fair value through profit or loss using the second leg of the fair value option i.e. these financial assets are managed and their performance is evaluated on a fair value basis. In accordance with the Authority's risk management strategy, information about these assets is provided internally on that basis to the Authority's key management personnel.

Designation at fair value through profit or loss is consistent with the Authority's risk management policy.

The movement in the fair value of the Hour-Glass Investment facilities incorporates distributions received as well as unrealised movements in fair value and is reported in the line item 'investment revenue'.

(p) Impairment of financial assets

All financial assets are measured at fair value through profit or loss and are not subject to an annual review for impairment. Notes to and forming part of the financial report for the year ended 30 June 2009

(q) Derecognition of financial assets and financial liabilities

A financial asset is derecognised when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial assets expire; or if the Authority transfers the financial asset:

- Where substantially all the risks and rewards have been transferred or;
- Where the Authority has not transferred substantially all the risks and rewards, but has not retained control.

Where the Authority has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership or transferred control, the asset is recognised to the extent of the Authority's continuing involvement in the asset, and an associated liability for amounts it may have to pay.

(r) Other assets

Other assets are recognised on a cost basis.

(s) Receivables

Receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. These financial assets are recognised initially at fair value, usually based on the transaction cost or face value. Subsequent measurement is at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less an allowance for any impairment of receivables. Any changes are accounted for in the Income Statement when impaired, derecognised or through the amortisation process.

Short term receivables with no stated interest rate are measured at the original invoice amount where the effect of discounting is immaterial.

(t) Liabilities

(i) Payables

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Authority and other amounts. Payables are recognised initially at fair value, usually based on the transaction cost or face value. Subsequent measurement is at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Short-term payables with no stated interest rate are measured at the original invoice amount where the effect of discounting is immaterial.

(ii) Personnel Services

(a) Personnel services

The Authority does not employ staff but utilises the personnel services of the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC). The costs of personnel services in respect of wages and salaries, superannuation, annual leave, long service leave, and for sick leave are recognised when it is probable that settlement will be required and they are capable of being measured reliably. Provision made in respect of benefits expected to be settled

within 12 months are measured at their nominal values using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement.

Provisions made in respect of employee benefits which are not expected to settle within 12 months are measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made by the consolidated entity in respect of services provided by employees up to reporting date.

The outstanding amounts of payroll tax, workers compensation insurance premium and fringe benefits tax, which are consequential to employment are recognised as liabilities and expenses when the benefits to which they relate have been recognised.

Unused non-vesting sick leave does not give rise to a liability as it is not considered probable that sick leave taken in the future will be greater than the benefits accrued in the future.

(b) Defined contribution plans

Contribution to a defined contribution funds, such as Basic Benefit and First State Super, are expensed when incurred. It is calculated as a percentage of the employees' salary. In 2007/08 and 2008/09, 9% was contributed.

(c) Long service leave and defined benefits superannuation

The Authority has no liability for long service leave and defined benefit superannuation. Personnel services are acquired from the Department of Environment and Climate Change and the liability of these items has been assumed by the Crown Entity.

(iii) Provision for restoration of leased premises

A provision for restoring leased premises has not been recognised as the amount is not significant.

(u) Assistance provided by other organisations free of charge

The maintenance of the Authority's accounting records and provision of corporate services (excluding IT services) were provided by the Department of Commerce and the Department of Environment and Climate Change free of charge under the provisions of the Corporate Services Service Level Agreement. Some agreed services were provided by "Service First" on a cost recovery basis. In addition, other organisations including community groups provide in kind assistance free of charge. The Department of Environment and Climate Change and the Department of Commerce cannot reliably estimate the fair value of these services to individual CMA's.

(v) Comparative information

Except where an Australian Accounting Standard permits or requires otherwise, comparative information is disclosed in respect of the previous period for all amounts reported in the financial statements.

(w) New Australian accounting standards issue

In the current year the Authority has adopted all of the new and revised Standards and Interpretations issued by the AASB that are relevant to the operations and effective for the current reporting period. Details of the impact of the adoption of these new accounting standards are set out in the individual accounting policies notes in the financial report.

Certain new accounting standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for 30 June 2009 reporting period. In accordance with the NSW Treasury mandate (TC 09/03), the Authority did not early adopt any of these accounting standards and interpretations that are not yet effective:

- AASB 3 (March 2008), AASB 127 and AASB 2008-3 regarding business combinations;
- AASB 8 and AASB 2007-3 regarding operating segments;
- AASB 101 (Sept 2007), AASB 2007-8 and AASB 2007-10 regarding presentation of financial statements;
- AASB 123 (June 2007) and AASB 2007-6 regarding borrowing costs;
- AASB 1039 regarding concise financial reports;
- AASB 2008-1 regarding share based payments;
- AASB 2008-2 regarding puttable financial instruments;
- AASB 2008-5 and AASB 2008-6 regarding amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Annual Improvements Project;
- AASB 2008-7 regarding costs of an investment in a subsidiary, jointly controlled entity, or an associate;
- AASB 2008-8 regarding eligible hedged items;
- AASB 2008-9 regarding AASB 1049 amendments consistent with AASB 101;
- AASB 2008-11 regarding business combinations with not-for-profit entities;
- AASB 2009-1 regarding borrowing costs of not for profit public sector entities;
- AASB 2009-2 regarding financial instrument
- Interpretation 15 on construction of real estate;
- Interpretation 16 on hedges of a net investment in a foreign operation;
- Interpretation 17 and AASB 2008-13 on distribution of non cash assets to owners;
- Interpretation 18 on transfers of assets from customers.

It is considered that the impact of these new standards and interpretations in future years will have no material impact on the financial statements of the Authority.

NOTE 3 - REVENUE

	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Contributions received from:		
Joint State/Commonwealth contributions (i)	18,507	17,337
Operating grant funding	3,633	3,660
Other contributions (ii)	404	854
	22,544	21,851

- (i) Contributions were received from the Department of Environment and Climate Change towards achieving pre-negotiated natural resources management outcomes.
- (ii) Other contributions were received for specific agreed works towards achieving natural resources management outcomes.

NOTE 4 - OTHER INCOME

Interest	750	1,269
(Loss) on disposal for consideration of property, plant & equipment	(15)	-
Other	1,849	583
	2,584	1,852

NOTE 5 - EXPENSES

	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Personnel services expenses		
Salaries and wages (including recreation leave)	4,156	4,760
Staff on-costs	1,000	984
	5,156	5,744
Other operating expenses		
Auditors remuneration (i)	15	14
Board Member's remuneration (ii)	162	142
Board Member's and Committees costs	51	93
Contractors	1,071	269
Fees for services	7,496	5,993
Training	227	299
Insurance	13	17
Accommodation and related expenses	435	426
Stores, materials and minor equipment	2,960	5,652
Plant/vehicle expenses	417	403
Travel	177	164
Other	273	206
	13,297	13,678
Depreciation	54	50
Grants and subsidies	7,877	17,938
Total	26,384	37,410

- (i) Audit fee to The Audit Office of New South Wales for audit of financial report. The auditors received no other benefits.
- (ii) Board members received no other benefits.

NOTE 6 - CURRENT ASSETS – Cash and cash equivalents

Current assets – Cash and Cash equivalents

Cash at bank and on hand	548	3,994
NSW Treasury Corporation – HourGlass cash facility	5,676	9,293
	6,224	13,287

Also refer to Note 15.

NOTE 7 - CURRENT ASSETS - Receivables

	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Accounts receivable	115	36
Goods & Services Tax recoverable	616	680
Accrued income	22	36
Other amounts receivable	-	1
	753	753

Also refer to Note 15.

NOTE 8 - NON CURRENT RECEIVABLES – Property, plant and equipment

	Leasehold Improvement \$'000	Plant & Equipment \$'000	Total \$'000
At 1 July 2008			
Gross carrying amount	211	175	386
Accumulated depreciation	(39)	(67)	(106)
Net carrying amount	172	108	280
At 30 June 2009			
Gross carrying amount	211	184	395
Accumulated depreciation	(60)	(94)	(154)
Net carrying amount	151	90	241

Reconciliation

A reconciliation of the carrying amount of each class of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of the current reporting period is set out below.

Year ended 30 June 2009	Leasehold Improvement \$'000	Plant & Equipment \$'000	Total \$'000
Net carrying amount at start of year	172	108	280
Additions	-	30	30
Disposals	-	(15)	(15)
Depreciation expense	(21)	(33)	(54)
Net carrying amount at end of year	151	90	241
Net carrying amount at start of year	193	137	330
Depreciation expense	(21)	(29)	(50)
Net carrying amount at end of year	172	108	280

Notes to and forming part of the financial report for the year ended 30 June 2009

NOTE 9 - CURRENT LIABILITIES - Payables

	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Accrued personnel services	37	28
Creditors	343	992
Accruals	1,115	2,129
Other	4,672	8,812
	6,167	11,961

Also refer to Note 15.

All payables are expected to be paid in the next 12 months.

NOTE 10 - CURRENT/NON CURRENT LIABILITIES - Provisions

	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Personnel services and related on-costs		
Personnel services provision	444	528
On-costs	187	155
Aggregate personnel services and related on-costs	631	683
Provisions – current	624	678
Provisions – non current	7	5
	631	683

All current provisions are expected to be settled within the next 12 months.

NOTE 11 - CHANGES IN EQUITY

	Retained Surplus		Total equity	
	2009	2008	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Balance at the beginning of the financial year	1,676	15,383	1,676	15,383
Surplus/ (deficit) for the year	(1,256)	(13,707)	(1,256)	(13,707)
Balance at the end of the financial year	420	1,676	420	1,676

NOTE 12 - NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT

Cash

For the purpose of the Cash Flow Statement, cash includes cash on hand, in banks and investments in NSW Treasury Corporation Hour Glass facilities.

Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the Cash Flow Statement is reconciled to the Balance Sheet in Note 6.

Reconciliation of (deficit) for the year to net cash flows from operating activities	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Deficit for the year	(1,256)	(13,707)
Depreciation	54	50
Net loss on sale of non-current assets	15	-
(Increase) in receivables	-	(445)
(Decrease)/Increase in payables and provisions	(5,846)	5,930
Net cash flows from operating activities	(7,033)	8,172

NOTE 13 - COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE

	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
(a) Other expenditure commitments		
Not later than one year	55	1,777
Later than one year and not later than 5 years	-	-
Later than 5 years	-	-
Total	55	1,777
The commitments above include GST of \$5K (2008: \$161K), expected to be recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office.		
(b) Operating lease commitments		
Aggregate operating lease commitments for office accommodation, motor vehicles and computer equipment. Contracted but not provided for at balance date, payable:		
Not later than one year	461	484
Later than one year and not later than 5 years	570	553
Later than 5 years	-	-
Total	1,031	1,037
The commitments above include GST of \$91K (2008: \$94K), expected to be recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office.		
(c) Natural resources investment projects commitments		
Aggregate commitments under contract for projects to deliver agreed natural resource outcomes. Contracted but not provided for at balance date, payable:		
Not later than one year	-	5,280
Later than one year and not later than 5 years	-	-
Later than 5 years	-	-
Total	-	5,280
The commitments above include GST of \$Nil K (2008: \$452K), expected to be recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office.		

(d) Finance lease payable commitments

The Authority did not have any finance lease payable commitments at balance date. (2008:nil)

NOTE 14 - CONTINGENT LIABILITIES/ASSETS

(i) Contingent Liabilities – The Authority is negotiating with a party an alleged breach of contract, it is not practicable to estimate the financial effects of this claim, however, the Authorities insurable risk will cover this claim.(2008 : \$nil).

(ii) Contingent Assets – Apart from the amounts disclosed in Note 13 above, there are no known contingent assets at balance date.

NOTE 15 - FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Authority's principal financial instruments are outlined below. These financial instruments arise directly from the Authority's operations or are required to finance the Authority's operations. The Authority does not enter into or trade financial instruments, including derivative financial instruments, for speculative purposes.

The Authority's main risks arising from financial instruments are outlined below, together with the Authority's objectives, policies and processes for measuring and managing risk. Further quantitative and qualitative disclosures are included throughout this financial report.

The Authority's Board has overall responsibility for the establishment and oversight of risk management and reviews and agrees policies for managing each of these risks. Risk management policies are established to identify and analyse the risks faced by the Authority, to set risk limits and controls and to monitor risks. Compliance with policies is reviewed by the Authority's Board on a continuous basis.

a) Financial instrument categories

Financial Assets	Note	Category	Carrying Amount	Carrying Amount
Class:			2009	2008
			\$'000	\$'000
Cash and cash equivalents	6	N/A	6,224	13,287
Receivables ¹	7	Loans and receivables (at amortised cost)	137	73
Financial Liabilities	Note	Category	Carrying Amount	Carrying Amount
Class:			2009	2008
			\$'000	\$'000
Payables ²	9	Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	6,167	11,961

Notes

1. Excludes statutory receivables and prepayments (i.e. not within scope of AASB 7).
2. Excludes statutory payables and unearned revenue (i.e. not within scope of AASB 7).

b) Credit risk

Credit risk arises when there is the possibility of the Authority's debtors defaulting on their contractual obligations, resulting in a financial loss to the Authority. The maximum exposure to credit risk is generally represented by the carrying amount of the financial assets (net of any allowance for impairment).

Credit risk arises from the financial assets of the Authority, including cash, receivables and Authority deposits. No collateral is held by the Authority. The Authority has not granted any financial guarantees.

Credit risk associated with the Authority's financial assets, other than receivables, is managed through the selection of counterparties and establishment of minimum credit rating standards. Authority's deposits held with NSW TCorp are guaranteed by the State.

(i) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash comprises cash on hand, in banks and investment with the NSW Treasury Corporation Hour-Glass facilities. The TCorp Hour Glass cash facility is discussed in para (f) below.

(ii) Receivables – trade debtors

All trade debtors are recognised as amounts receivable at balance date. Collectibility of trade debtors is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Procedures as established in the Treasurer's Directions are followed to recover outstanding amounts, including letters of demand. Debts which are known to be uncollectible are written off. An allowance for impairment is raised when there is objective evidence that the entity will not be able to collect all amounts due. This evidence includes past experience, and current and expected changes in economic conditions and debtor credit ratings. No interest is earned on trade debtors.

The Authority is not materially exposed to concentrations of credit risk to a single trade debtor or group of debtors. Based on past experience, debtors that are not past due (2009: \$120K; 2008: \$26K) and not less than 1 month past due (2009: \$Nil; 2008: \$6K) are not considered impaired and together these represent 99% of the total trade debtors (2008: 88%). Most of the Authority's debtors have a good credit rating. There are no debtors which are currently not past due or impaired whose terms have been renegotiated.

The credit risk is the carrying amount (net of any allowance for impairment). The carrying amount approximates net fair value. Sales are made on 30 day terms. No interest is earned on trade debtors.

	Total ^{1,2} (\$'000)	Past due but not impaired (\$'000) ^{1,2}	Considered impaired (\$'000) ^{1,2}
2009			
< 3 months overdue	-	-	-
3 months – 6 months overdue	-	-	-
> 6 months overdue	-	-	-
2008			
< 3 months overdue	6	6	-
3 months – 6 months overdue	4	4	-
> 6 months overdue	-	-	-

1. Each column in the table reports 'gross receivables'; 2. The ageing analysis excludes statutory receivables, as these are not within the scope of AASB7 and excludes receivables that are not past due and not 'impaired'. Therefore, the total will not reconcile to the receivables total recognised in the balance sheet. .

(iii) Other financial assets

Deposits at 30 June 2009 were earning an average interest rate 3.03% (2008 : 7.41%) while over the period the average interest rate was 4.57% (2008 : 6.90%).

c) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Authority will be unable to meet its payment obligations when they fall due. The Authority continuously manages risk through monitoring future cash flows and maturities planning to ensure adequate holding of high quality liquid assets. The objective is to maintain a balance between continuity of funding and expenditure.

During the current and prior years, there were no defaults or breaches on any payables. No assets have been pledged as collateral. The Authority's exposure to liquidity risk is deemed insignificant based on prior periods' data and current assessment of risk.

The liabilities are recognised for amounts due to be paid in the future for goods or services received, whether or not invoiced. Amounts owing to suppliers (which are unsecured) are settled in accordance with the policy set out in Treasurer's Direction 219.01. If trade terms are not specified, payment is made no later than the end of the month following the month in which an invoice or a statement is received. Treasurer's Direction 219.01 allows the Minister to award interest for late payment. The rate of interest applied during the year was Nil% (2008 : Nil%).

The table below summarises the maturity profile of the Authority's financial liabilities, together with the interest rate exposure.

(c) Liquidity risk (continued)

2009	Weighted Average Effective Int. Rate	Interest Rate Exposure			Maturity Dates		
		Nominal Amount	Fixed Interest rate	Variable Interest rate	< 1 year	1-5 years	> 5 years
Payables:		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Accrued salaries, wages and on-costs	N/A	37	-	-	37	-	-
Creditors	N/A	343	-	-	343	-	-
		380	-	-	380	-	-
2008							
Payables:							
Accrued salaries, wages and on-costs	N/A	28	-	-	28	-	-
Creditors	N/A	992	-	-	992	-	-
		1,020	-	-	1,020	-	-

d) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The Authority's exposures to market risk are primarily through price risks associated with the movement in the unit price of the Hour Glass Investment facilities. The Authority does not have any borrowings. The Authority has no exposure to foreign currency risk and does not enter into commodity contracts.

The effect on profit and equity due to a reasonably possible change in risk variable is outlined in the information below, for interest rate risk and other price risk. A reasonably possible change in risk variable has been determined after taking into account the economic environment in which the Authority operates and the time frame for the assessment (i.e. until the end of the next annual reporting period). The sensitivity analysis is based on risk exposures in existence at the balance sheet date. The analysis is performed on the same basis for 2008. The analysis assumes that all other variables remain constant.

e) Interest rate risk

As the Authority has no interest bearing liabilities its exposure to interest rate risk is minimal. The Authority does not account for any fixed rate financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss or as available for sale. Therefore for these financial instruments a change in interest rates would not affect profit or loss or equity. A reasonably possible change of +/- 1% is used, consistent with current trends in interest rates. The basis will be reviewed annually and amended where there is a structural change in the level of interest rate volatility. The Authority's exposure to interest rate risk is set out below.

2009	Carrying amount	-1%		+1%	
		Profit	Equity	Profit	Equity
Financial assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	6,224	(62)	(62)	62	62
Receivables	753	(8)	(8)	8	8

Financial liabilities					
Payables	6,167	62	62	(62)	(62)
2008					
Financial assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	13,287	(133)	(133)	133	133
Receivables	753	(8)	(8)	8	8
Financial liabilities					
Payables	11,961	120	120	(120)	(120)

f) Other price risk

Exposure to 'other price risk' primarily arises through the investment in the TCorp Hour Glass Investment facilities, which are held for strategic rather than trading purposes.

The Authority has no direct equity investments. The Authority holds units in the following Hour-Glass investment trusts:

Facility	Investment Sectors	Investment Horizon	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Cash Facility	Cash, Money market instruments	Up to 2 years	5,676	9,293

The unit price of each facility is equal to the total fair value of net assets held by the facility divided by the total number of units on issue for that facility. Unit prices are calculated and published daily.

NSW TCorp as trustee for each of the above facility is required to act in the best interest of the unitholders and to administer the trusts in accordance with the trust deeds. As trustee, TCorp has appointed external managers to manage the performance and risks of each facility in accordance with a mandate agreed by the parties. However, TCorp, acts as manager for part of the Cash Facility. A significant portion of the administration of the facilities is outsourced to an external custodian.

Investment in the Hour Glass facilities limits Authority's exposure to risk, as it allows diversification across a pool of funds, with different investment horizons and a mix of investments.

NSW TCorp provides sensitivity analysis information for each of the facilities, using historically based volatility information collected over a ten-year period, quoted at two standard deviations (i.e.,

Notes to and forming part of the financial report for the year ended 30 June 2009

95% probability). The TCorp Hour Glass Investment facilities are designated at fair value through profit or loss and therefore any change in unit price impacts directly on profit (rather than equity). A reasonably possible change is based on the percentage change in unit price (as advised by TCorp) multiplied by the redemption value as at 30 June each year for each facility (balance from Hour-Glass statement).

		Impact on profit/loss	
	Change in unit price	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Hour Glass Investment Cash Facility	+1%	57	93
	-1%	(57)	(93)

g) Fair value

Financial instruments are generally recognised at cost, with the exception of the TCorp Hour Glass facilities, which are measured at fair value. As discussed, the value of the Hour Glass Investments is based on Authority's share of the value of the underlying assets of the facility, based on the market value. All of the Hour Glass facilities are valued using 'redemption' pricing.

The amortised cost of financial instruments recognised in the balance sheet approximates the fair value, because of the short-term nature of many of the financial instruments.

NOTE 16 - AFTER BALANCE DATE EVENTS

There are no significant events subsequent to balance sheet date.

End of audited financial statement

list of appendices

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Appendix 1

Our Act and Role

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Appendix 2

Legal Changes

No legal changes were applicable to the Murrumbidgee CMA in 2008–09.

Appendix 3

Code of Conduct

The Murrumbidgee CMA operates under the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water Code of Ethical Conduct. This code describes the ethical framework that should guide actions, decisions and behaviour as DECC employees.

The Murrumbidgee CMA is committed to maintaining a workforce that displays the highest standards of conduct and ethics.

Appendix 4

Employee Classification

Pursuant to the provisions of the Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002, staff are employed in the Service of the Crown by the DECC and undertake work for the Murrumbidgee CMA in fulfilling its statutory functions.

Table 2: Summary of staff undertaking work for the Murrumbidgee CMA as at 30 June 2009.

CATEGORY	June 07		June 08		June 09	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Permanent	15	12	17	11	10	10
Temporary	14	32	12	21	9	21
TOTAL	29	44	29	32	22	31

Table 3: Trends in representation of EEO groups as at 30 June 2009. (Expressed as % of Full Time Equivalent)

EEO Target Group	NSW Benchmark or Target	2007	2008	2009
Women	50%	60.3%	52.4%	58.5%
Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders	2%	4.8%	6.5%	3.77%

Aboriginal employment and cultural awareness

In line with NSW Government targets, the Murrumbidgee CMA management team is committed to maintaining two per cent Aboriginal employment within the organisation. This year the Murrumbidgee CMA exceeded NSW Government Targets, with indigenous staff making up 3.77% of employees.

Flexible work practices

Murrumbidgee CMA working conditions align with those of DECC. DECC recognises the importance of flexibility for all employees to balance their work and personal responsibilities more effectively, and the Murrumbidgee CMA provides opportunities for employees to make working arrangements to allow for this.

Appendix 7

Funds Granted to Non-Government Community Organisations

During the 2008-09 reporting period the Murrumbidgee CMA issued a total of \$7,315,128 directly to non-government organisations, community groups and individuals. The remaining grant funds were delivered to the community via contracted third party providers on a fee for service basis.

Appendix 5

NSW Government Action Plan for Women

The Murrumbidgee CMA is committed to the aims and objectives of the NSW Government Action Plan for Women and actively supports women in the workplace. During the 2008-09 period, the Murrumbidgee CMA provided flexible working conditions for all staff, including paid maternity leave. Of the 31 women employed by the Murrumbidgee CMA in 2008-09, five accessed paid maternity leave.

Appendix 6

Personal Policies and Practices

DECC is the host employer for all CMAs and its personnel policies and practices extend in coverage to the Murrumbidgee CMA. These policies and practices include:

- Industrial Relations
- Equal Employment Opportunity
- Disability Plans
- Ethnic Affairs Priorities Statements
- Occupational Health and Safety

Recruitment

The Murrumbidgee CMA continues to review and update recruitment procedures and policy to assist selection committees in undertaking their role effectively.

Table 6: Funds Granted to non-government organisations, community groups and individuals

Source of Funds	Project Description	Amount Granted (\$) 1/7/08 to 30/06/09
Caring for Our Country	Balranald River Bank Stabilisation project will protect and enhance the bank of the Murrumbidgee River near Balranald using recognised bank stabilisation techniques.	30,000
Caring for Our Country	Traditional Owners Tumut Shire project implements Riparian Restoration on-ground works by Traditional Owners and Aboriginal people of the Tumut area in partnership with Tumut Shire Council, Gundagai Rural Lands Protection Board, Local Aboriginal Community, Department of Lands, Department of Environment and Climate Change, TAFE, Murrumbidgee CMA and other stakeholders.	495,000
Caring for Our Country	Narrandera Koala Protection project protects the habitat of the Narrandera Koala population and reduce number of deaths and injuries from traffic of Koala population on the Newell highway at Narrandera.	9,665
Caring for Our Country	Yass River Willow Control project is to protect and enhance biodiversity and Aboriginal cultural heritage values in culturally significant riparian areas within the project area, through removal of willows and revegetation with native plants.	40,042
Interest	Interest funded projects	29,211
Molonglo	Assist landmanagers to protect and enhance priority terrestrial vegetation sites in the upper catchment, along the Molonglo Creek using a range of measures incentives and specialist advice.	152,793
Enviro Trust/EcoTender	Fencing incentives for conserving Murrumbidgee River Wetlands between Gundagai & Hay	992,506
Environmental Services Scheme	Pilot project to provide incentives to land managers to encourage permanent changes of land use.	540,310
Land & Water Management Program	Maintain and enhance the sustainability and profitability of agriculture in the sub-region of Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area & Coleambally Irrigation Area	3,329,428
National Action Plan	Aquatic Biota Enhancement program implements a range of educational and on-ground works that improve the in-stream aquatic habitat of selected reaches of the Murrumbidgee River and its tributaries.	2,045
NAP/NHT	Agroforestry for Groundwater Interception project aims to reduce dryland salinity at both recharge and discharge sites; to potentially value add biodiversity and commercial values; and build the knowledge and skills of landholders in establishing and managing farm forestry plots.	15,464
NAP/NHT	Mid-Lower-Upper Biodiversity Programs protect and enhance native vegetation across the catchment.	161,786
NAP/NHT	Drought and Climate Change project addresses a fundamental gap in the ability of current farming systems to manage land during extreme climatic events. The result will be reduced soil erosion, increase of perennial vegetation and improvement in water balance.	231,248
NAP/NHT	Restoring Saline Landscapes implement best practices to decrease salinity for areas outside the targeted salinity & water quality projects.	591
NAP/NHT	Profitable Animal Production (Evergraze) project aims to decrease groundwater recharge through use of increased perennial vegetation.	171,084

NAP/NHT	Perennial Pastures program through training & on-ground activities will provide land managers with knowledge & skill to increase the area and improve their management of perennial pastures for NRM outcomes.	609,751
NAP/NHT	Targeted Salinity & Water Quality Projects (Yass, Jugiong, Muttama, Kyeamba, Tarcutta, Cooneys Creek & Houlagan Creek) implement best management practices to reduce salinity and sediment entering the Murrumbidgee River.	121,462
NAP/NHT	Urban Salinity aims to reduce the potential for high saline water-tables in the Murrumbidgee catchment and protect high value urban infrastructure.	206,906
NAP/NHT/Interest	River Restoration aims to reduce sediment levels in the Murrumbidgee River and improve riparian ecosystem health.	58,144
National Landcare Program (NLP)	Profitable Farmers, Sustainable Systems, Healthy Landscapes project aims to improve the productivity, profitability and natural resource management of farm businesses throughout the Murrumbidgee Catchment.	13,818
National Heritage Trust (NHT)	Protect and Enhance Native Vegetation program protect and enhance HCV sites to enhance biodiversity outcomes.	8,105
Other Income	River Reach project implements strategies developed for the purchase and use of environmental water.	37,515
Section 10 Riverina Highlands	Riverina Highlands Landscape project provides incentives to land managers in the Riverina Highlands area to enhance native vegetation and reduce soil erosion	58,254
TOTAL		7,315,128

Appendix 8

Credit Card Use

Murrumbidgee CMA has two credit cards issued to the Chairperson and General Manager. Subject to DECC requirements, corporate credit cards have been issued to facilitate travel, accommodation and limited purchases.

DECC corporate card policies represent best practice in accordance with treasury and the Auditor General's guidelines. Corporate card expenditures are monitored for compliance with the guidelines on a transaction basis. In accordance with the Treasurer's directions, the certification report on corporate-card usage is reviewed by officers of DECC. Corporate credit card usage was considered to comply with best practice guidelines.

Appendix 9

Consultants Engaged

During the reporting period 2008-09 the Murrumbidgee CMA did not engage any consultants.

Appendix 10

Investment performance

As at the 30 June 2009 the Murrumbidgee CMA has funds of \$5,675,596 invested in Treasury Corporation—Hourglass Facility, at an average (per annum) interest rate of 5.35%. No funds are invested outside the Treasury Corporation—Hourglass Facility.

Appendix 11

Payment of accounts

Payment of accounts on behalf of the Murrumbidgee CMA is undertaken by Department of Services, Technology and Administration – ServiceFirst as part of their service level agreement with the CMAs.

Appendix 12

Production Cost of 2008-09 Annual Report
See inside front cover

Table 3: Quarterly Schedule of Accounts Payable – Aged analysis at the end of each quarter.

Quarter	Current (ie within due date) \$	Less than 30 days overdue \$	Between 30 and 60 days overdue \$	Between 60 and 90 days overdue \$	More than 90 days overdue \$
September Quarter	139,048	0	446	10,943	1,564
December Quarter	113	1,045	0	920	2,491
March Quarter	87,641	201	5,754	0	384
June Quarter	47	342,477	0	0	0

Table 4: Accounts paid on time within each quarter.

Quarter	Total Accounts Paid on Time Retained Surplus			Total Amount Paid \$
	Target %	Actual %	\$	
September Quarter	90	87	11,605,242	12,471,593
December Quarter	90	90	2,805,400	3,320,380
March Quarter	90	85	3,012,967	3,348,398
June Quarter	90	96	10,500,371	10,737,623

Appendix 13

Risk Management and Insurance

Effective risk management is a core management requirement. Risk management is considered at all levels of Murrumbidgee CMA operations in the normal course of all activities.

The review of Murrumbidgee CMA Risk Assessment Report was completed with the assistance from Deloitte and has been integrated into an internal audit plan for the Murrumbidgee CMA. The Murrumbidgee CMA was fully covered for a range of insurance risks through its participation in the NSW Treasury Managed Funds self-insurance scheme that provides workers compensation, legal liability, motor vehicles, property and miscellaneous cover. One of the conditions of this insurance coverage is a requirement to place a high priority on the implementation of sound risk management practices.

Appendix 14

Waste

The NSW Government's Waste Reduction and Purchasing Policy aims to reduce waste production by all government agencies. The Murrumbidgee CMA is committed to reducing the amount of waste produced and has a number recycling procedures in place to minimise environmental impacts.

In addition to existing strategies to reduce waste, the Murrumbidgee CMA has continued to increase the amount of recycled content in outsourced printing of publications and office-based printing. The Murrumbidgee CMA continues to develop waste reduction strategies for a more environmentally friendly workplace.

Appendix 15

Access

See page inside back cover

Appendix 16

Freedom of Information applications

The Murrumbidgee CMA did not receive any applications Freedom of Information in 2008-09, nor were there any applications brought forward from a previous period.

Appendix 17

Guarantee of Service

The Murrumbidgee CMA aims to deliver quality customer services and strives to offer timely support and information from its 12 regional offices. Sensitive and confidential material is handled in a manner that ensures the rights of the individual and requirements of DECC are met.

Appendix 18

Privacy management plan

The Murrumbidgee CMA respects the privacy of members of the public who work in partnership agreements and access our services, and our employees. In the 2007-08 reporting period, there was one request for access to documents, no applications for an internal review and no complaints under the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998. As required under the Act, DECC has a Privacy Management Plan governing the collection, retention, accuracy and disclosure of personal information, including rights of access and correction, which the Murrumbidgee CMA adheres to.

Appendix 19

Promotion and Communication

Murrumbidgee CMA continues to engage with and endeavours to ensure a clear connection exists between our wide range of stakeholders who are aware of our activities funded by the Australian and NSW Governments.

A communication working group was developed in 2008-09 and its membership includes management, staff and board member. The working group meets every two months to assist the Murrumbidgee CMA in achieving its objectives as outlined in its communication strategy.

The strategy is pursued through a mix of communication modes including broadcast and print media, web-based publishing, printed publications and face to face. In 2008-09 a contractor was employed to talk face to face with landholders in the lower parts of the Murrumbidgee catchment and capture their input for the development of the Draft Natural Resource Management Plan for the Lower Murrumbidgee River Floodplain.

The Murrumbidgee CMA has continued to engage with the media to promote sustainable natural resource management and to inform communities, government and other stakeholders about the importance of catchment health.

We have been the major sponsor for the annual Australian Birdfair since 2006, held in Leeton. Bird enthusiasts from around the world and Australia enjoy the fair and it is a great opportunity for Murrumbidgee CMA to showcase its achievements through its exhibit and presentations.

Wetlands are amongst the world's most productive but degraded ecosystems, the Murrumbidgee CMA values its wetlands and is home to globally important Fivebough and Tuckerbill swamps. The Murrumbidgee CMA released an extremely valuable and unique resource to the public, Murrumbidgee Wetland Resource Book, containing detailed information and maps about the Murrumbidgee River System.

Print advertising is a strong medium for providing the community with information regarding the business of the Murrumbidgee CMA. The annual eight-page advertorial feature appeared in regional newspapers across the Murrumbidgee catchment, giving both land managers and the general public an update on what the Murrumbidgee CMA has achieved in the past year.

Development commenced in 2008-09 for the new Murrumbidgee CMA website which will allow the improvement of usability and relevance of content to ensure visits continue to grow and all stakeholders can access pertinent information in a timely manner.



Sticky Everlasting (*Bracteantha Viscosa*)

Appendix 20

Publications

Publication Type Produced 2008-09

Resource Guides Murrumbidgee Wetlands Resource Book

Newsletters

- Cootamundra Landcare Newsletter – February 2009
- Central Riverina Landcare Newsletter – Spring 2008
- Central Riverina Landcare Newsletter – Autumn 2009
- Eastern Riverina Landcare Newsletter – Summer 2009
- Eastern Riverina Landcare Newsletter – Autumn 2009
- Harden Murrumburrah Landcare Newsletter – January 2009
- Harden Murrumburrah Landcare Newsletter – April 2009
- Hay Trees on Plains Landcare Newsletter – Spring 2008
- Hay Trees on Plains Landcare Newsletter – Summer 2009
- Junee Area Landcare Newsletter – Summer 2009
- Junee Area Landcare Newsletter – Winter 2008
- Junee Area Landcare Newsletter – March 2009
- Junee Area Landcare Newsletter – June 2009
- Kyemba Vally Landcare Newsletter – Autumn 2009
- Riverina Highlands Landcare Newsletter – Winter 2009
- Tarcutta Valley Network Landcare Newsletter – Winter 2008
- Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare Newsletter – December 2008
- Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare Newsletter – Winter 2009
- Yass Area Network Landcare Newsletter – February 2009
- Yass Area Network Landcare Newsletter – August/September 2008
- Yass Area Network Landcare Newsletter – May 2009

Plans/strategies Murrumbidgee Corporate Strategic Plan

Reports 2007-08 Murrumbidgee CMA Annual Report

Website Revised website content for the Murrumbidgee CMA

Acronyms

AICD	Australian Institute of Company Directors
CAP	Catchment Action Plan
CMA	Catchment Management Authority
CIA	Coleambally Irrigation Area
CICL	Coleambally Irrigation Cooperative Limited
DECC	Department of Environment and Climate Change
DEWHA	Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
EDRMS	Electronic Document and Records Management Systems
ESS	Environmental Services Scheme
DPI	Department of Primary Industries
HA	Hectares
INC	Incorporated
LWMP	Land and Water Management Plans
MDBA	Murray-Darling Basin Authority
MI	Murrumbidgee Irrigation Limited
MIA	Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area
NAP	National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality
NHT	Natural Heritage Trust
NLP	National Landcare Program
NRC	Natural Resource Commission
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NSW	New South Wales
OH&S	Occupational Health and Safety
PADACS	PVPs, Agreements, Data and Customer Service
PAMS	PVP Administration and Management System
PVP	Property Vegetation Plan
S10	Section 10 Riverina Highlands
TEMP	Tourism and Environmental Management People

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