

Western Catchment Management Authority
Annual Report 08-09



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY

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The Honourable John Robertson, MP
Minister for Climate Change and the Environment
Level 30
Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

31 October 2009

Dear Minister

We have great pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for the Western Catchment Management Authority. This report covers the period of the financial year 1 July 2008 – 30 June 2009.

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

The report details the activities, achievements and relevant statutory and financial information for the Western Catchment Management Authority.

Yours sincerely



Rory Treweeke
Chairperson



Andrew Mosely
Board member, Western CMA

1. About this document

In accordance with section 17(2) of the Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003, this document is the Annual Report of the Western Catchment Management Authority.

60 copies printed at a production cost of \$640 (incl. GST).

This report is available at www.western.cma.nsw.gov.au

2. Shortened forms used in this document

ANZECC	Australian and New Zealand Environment Conservation Council
ARAG	Aboriginal Reference Advisory Group
BMP	Best Management Practice
CAP	Catchment Action Plan
CFOC	Caring for our Country
CMA	Catchment Management Authority
CMB	Catchment Management Board
DECCW	NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
DPI	NSW Department of Primary Industries
EC	Electrical Conductivity (units used to express salinity in soils)
FATE	Future of Australia's Threatened Ecosystems
GAB	Great Artesian Basin
LHPA	Livestock Health and Pest Authority
NAP	National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality
NHT	Natural Heritage Trust
NRC	Natural Resources Commission
NRM	Natural Resources Management
NRS	National Reserve System
NVRIG	Native Vegetation Reform Implementation Group
WOF	Wetlands on Farms

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Photo acknowledgements

All images in this report have been provided by the Western Catchment Management Authority.

4. Executive Summary

4.1 Establishment of Catchment Management Authorities

The NSW Government established thirteen Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) across the state in 2004 as part of broad natural resource management reforms. This new approach to natural resource management resulted from recommendations in October 2003 by the Native Vegetation Reform Implementation Group (NVRIG) chaired by the Right Honourable Ian Sinclair AC.

NVRIG was formed to identify the ways to improve the management of native vegetation in NSW. NVRIG considered the environmental, economic and social impact of current and previous land management policies and regulations. It then recommended a comprehensive suite of reforms to ensure a viable and sustainable state for current and future generations. The NSW Government used the recommendations of the NVRIG report as a basis for sweeping natural resource management reform in NSW.

The CMAs are established under the Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003, which came into force on 23 January 2004. They are:

- Border Rivers-Gwydir
- Central West
- Hawkesbury-Nepean
- Hunter-Central Rivers
- Lachlan
- Lower Murray Darling
- Murray
- Murrumbidgee
- Namoi
- Northern Rivers
- Southern Rivers
- Sydney Metropolitan
- Western.

CMAs are statutory authorities, with responsible and accountable Boards that report directly to the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment. Each CMA Board consists of a Chairperson and up to six Board members with all appointments being skill and merit based.

While CMAs are an initiative of the NSW Government to manage natural resources they build on work previously undertaken by the Catchment Management Boards (CMBs) and Regional Vegetation Committees. They have integrated the Catchment Blueprints developed by the CMBs and endorsed by the NSW and Commonwealth Governments, into the approved Catchment Action Plans (CAP).

4.2 The Western Catchment

The Western Catchment is the largest in NSW, covering 230,000 km² or 29 per cent of the state, with a population of approximately 18,000. A significant portion of the Catchment makes up 20 per cent of the Murray-Darling Basin, with the remaining area falling within the Lake Eyre and Bulloo Basins.

Bourke, Brewarrina, Cobar, Lightning Ridge, Walgett and Broken Hill are the major service centres (with the latter two located just outside the Catchment). The Catchment includes the whole of Bourke and Brewarrina Shires and significant portions of the Unincorporated Area, Cobar, Central Darling and Walgett Shires and a small part of the Bogan Shire. Mining, agriculture and tourism are the main industries.

It is one of the most diverse areas of natural rangelands in Australia. Rangelands are large areas of arid or semi-arid land which are unsuitable for intensive agriculture because of unreliable rainfall and other constraints. Unlike many other catchments in NSW, the Western Catchment is largely in an intact state in terms of native vegetation communities. Broadly, native vegetation includes open woodlands, timbered areas, chenopod shrublands and native pastures. Managing invasive native scrub is a major challenge. Although native vegetation, it is symptomatic of a landscape out of balance. It outcompetes native pasture and results in bare eroded soils.

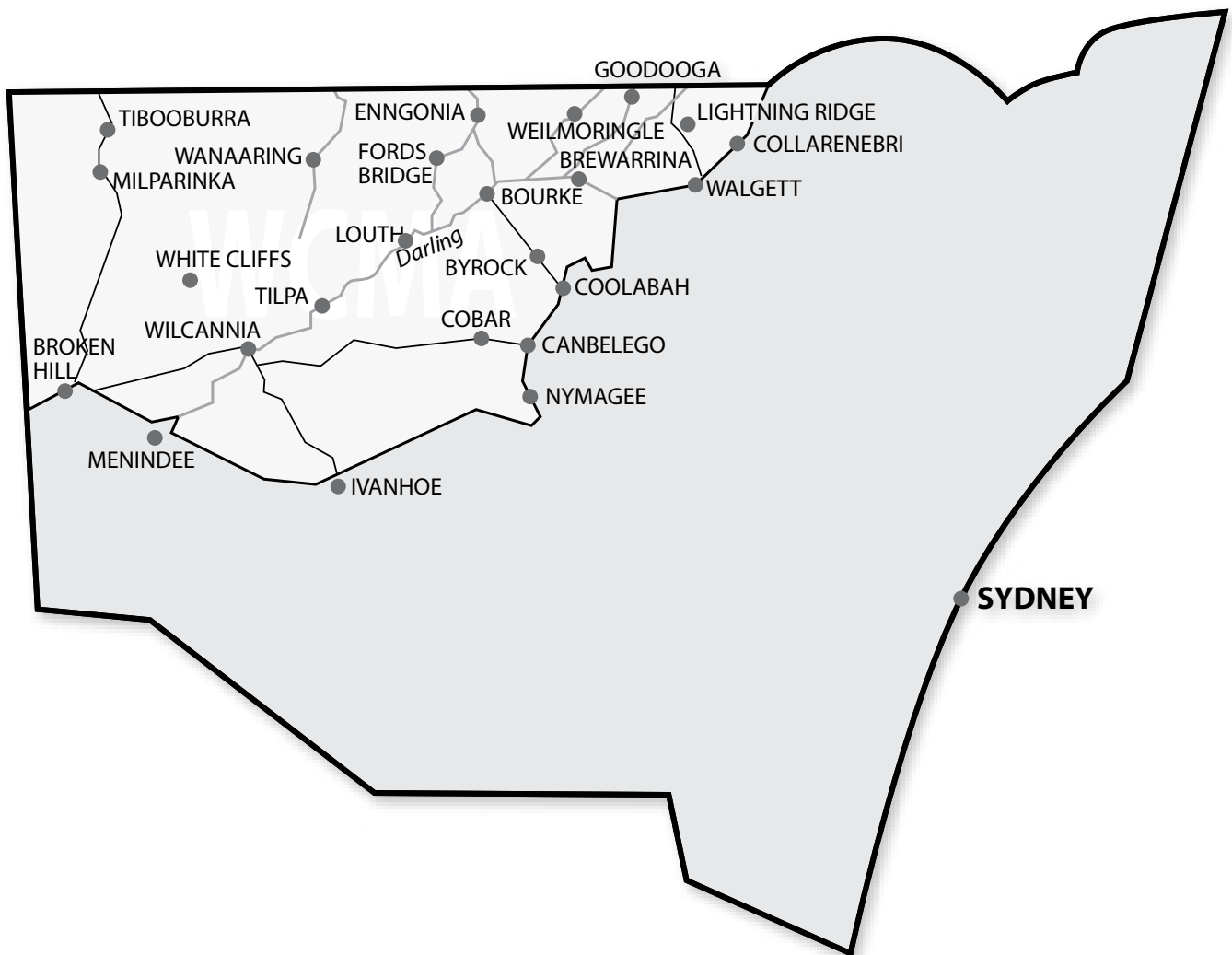
The Western Catchment is different to other catchments because it encompasses a series of river systems. These include the Barwon-Darling, Culgoa, Paroo, Warrego, Narran, Bokhara, Birrie, Bulloo Overflow and part of the Bogan Rivers. Many of these rivers originate in Queensland, with the Condamine-Balonne system contributing 20 per cent and the MacIntyre and Border

Rivers contributing 35 per cent of tributary flows entering the Barwon-Darling system.

Groundwater is an important natural resource in the Western Catchment. The volume of water stored in the

pores and fractures of rocks below the water table vastly exceeds the volume of fresh surface water resources.

The Great Artesian Basin (GAB) underlies much of the northern part of the Western Catchment area.



4.3 The role of the Catchment Management Authorities

Catchment Management Authorities were established to engage regional communities in the key natural resource management issues facing their catchments. They are the primary vehicle for the delivery of incentive programs funded by both the NSW and Australian Governments to achieve restoration and improvements in the natural resources of the state.

The specific functions of CMAs as described in section 15

of the Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003 are to:

- develop Catchment Action Plans and to give effect to any such approved plans 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 its Catchment Action Plan (CAP) (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 prescribed by the regulations.

More broadly the responsibilities of the CMAs can be described as:

Plans

- Integrating existing catchment, water, native vegetation and other natural resource management plans into a CAP
- Managing community involvement in preparation of water sharing and groundwater plans
- linking CAPs with Local Environmental Planning activities of local government to produce compatible outcomes.

On-ground works

- On-ground works – e.g. river rehabilitation, native vegetation management, salinity programs and projects
- Section 10 projects (Soil Conservation Act 1938).

Community education and support

- Providing advice and support to stakeholders and community
- Aboriginal consultation on CAPs, natural resource programs and investment strategies
- Providing community education and capacity building
- Providing technical advice on vegetation and habitat management, soil and land management, riparian management and other natural resource management issues.

Investment

- Implementing:
 - CAPs
 - development of investment strategies
 - native vegetation management fund

- approved National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality (NAP) and Natural Heritage Trust 2 (NHT2) programs
- Caring for our Country program
- NSW Catchment Action program
- Delivering incentives through Property Vegetation Plans (PVPs) and other mechanisms.

Property Vegetation Plans/vegetation agreements

- Certifying PVPs for establishing continuing uses and delivery of incentive payments
- Assessing all vegetation agreements under the Native Vegetation Act 2003.

Corporate support

The CMAs corporate support services (including financial management, human resources, accommodation, legal services, information technology and fleet management) are being provided by the Department of Commerce ServiceFirst and Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) under service level agreements. The CMAs are working with Service First and DECCW to continue to refine service level agreements.

Our vision

Dynamic, viable communities and enterprises which support and sustain diverse natural environments and cultural value.

4.4 Office contact details

Principal office

Cobar

62 Marshall Street
PO Box 307, Cobar NSW 2835
Phone: 02 6836 1575
Fax: 02 6836 2988
Freecall: 1800 032 101
Website: www.western.cma.nsw.gov.au

Other offices

Bourke

21 Mitchell Street
PO Box 342, Bourke NSW 2840
Phone: 02 6872 2144
Fax: 02 6872 2993

Walgett

89 Wee Waa Street
PO Box 248, Walgett NSW 2832
Phone: 02 6828 0110
Fax: 02 6828 1741

Broken Hill

32 Sulphide Street
PO Box 692, Broken Hill NSW 2880
Phone: 08 8082 5200
Fax 08 8087 2314

Dubbo

142 Brisbane Street
PO Box 1840, Dubbo NSW 2830
Phone: 02 6841 2740
Fax: 02 6841 2799

Core office hours for all offices are 8.30am - 4.30pm.

4.5 Management structure



4.6 Board

The Western CMA is run by a management board, made up of seven Western Catchment residents, all of whom have extensive experience in natural resource management. Board members are appointed for a two-year term.

The Western CMA Board has 11 meetings a year - six face-to-face meetings, in February, April, June, August, October and December, and five meetings via teleconference in March, May, July, September and November. There is no meeting held in January, although a teleconference can be called if required.

Board members

Rory Treweek, Chair

Rory lives with his wife, Joan, on their station near Lightning Ridge in north western NSW. Rory has been Chair of the Western CMA since February 2004. Rory has a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) and was the Independent Chair of the Barwon-Darling River Management Committee, NSW representative on the Community Reference Group for the Condamine-Balonne Water Resource Plan and a member of WEST 2000 Plus Board of Management. (Meetings attended: 11/11)



Diana Hoffman

Diana was appointed to the Western CMA Board in November 2007. She has been an active member of natural resource and community organisations both locally and on a state-wide level. Diana has been a member of the National Parks and Wildlife Service Advisory Council since 2001 and was the first woman to Chair the council in 2004. She has served on the Central-Darling Shire Council Tourism and Economic Development Board and Advisory Group, White Cliffs Parents and Citizens Association and the Darling River Group CWA Council. She is the Chair of the White Cliffs Community Association and the President of the White Cliffs History Group. (Meetings attended: 8/11)



Sam Jeffries

Sam is a member of the Moorawarri Aboriginal people and lives in Brewarrina. He has held a range of senior positions including: Walgett Shire Councillor from 1999 to 2003, ATSIC Councillor from 1990 to 2005, Chairperson of the Murdi Paaki Regional Council from 1996 to 2005, Board member of the NSW Aboriginal Housing Office from 1998 to 2005, and Chairperson of the NSW ATSIC State Council from 2002 to 2005. He is currently Chairperson of the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly, Deputy Chairperson Indigenous



Land Corporation, Panel Member of the NSW Aboriginal Trust Fund Repayment Scheme, Chairperson of the National Aboriginal Sporting Chance Academy NASCA and Adjunct Professor Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning University of Technology, Sydney. (Meetings attended: 9/11)

Justin McClure

Justin lives and works on his 60,000 hectare grazing property near Tilpa with his wife, Julie, and their children. Justin and Julie pursue a dynamic lifestyle combining their grazing property operations with their passion for tourism. Justin and Julie's 'Kallara Station' hosts the Coolabah Lodge and Fishermen's Lodge as well as camping and caravan sites. (Meetings attended: 9/11)



Andrew Mosely

Andrew lives and works on his 28,000 hectare property near Cobar, with his wife, Megan, and their children. Together they operate six diverse and integrated businesses including white dorper sheep, boer goats, cattle and cropping. Andrew has a Bachelor in Science majoring in Wool & Pastoral Science, from the University of NSW, and was runner-up in the NSW Young Farmer of the Year Award in 2004. Andrew and his family also took out the Environmental Achievement award in the 2008 Cobar business awards. Andrew has been on the Western CMA Board since October 2004. (Meetings attended: 11/11)



Matthew Nicholson

Matthew was appointed to the Western CMA Board in March 2009. Born and bred in Nymagee, Matthew works on the family farm, 'Glenwood Station', with his wife Megan, Matthew's parents and his brother's family. The farming business incorporates a number of activities including beef cattle production, harvesting broombrush and cypress pine, transport and accommodation for hunting groups. During favourable years they also undertake



some minimum-till cropping. An active member of the Buckwaroon Catchment Landcare Group, Matthew was a founding member of the NSW Broombush Industry Group. He is also involved in numerous community organisations including the Nymagee Rural Fire Brigade, Nymagee Progress Association and local cricket and tennis clubs. (Meetings attended: 3/3)

Tony Thompson

Tony began his career as a dryland agronomist and started growing irrigated cotton in 1993 and adopted grazing agriculture in 2001. His innovative 'integrated rangeland management' system, which focuses on the reintroduction of perennial pastures through rotational grazing and enables the management of stock on an individual basis, has attracted considerable interest both locally and abroad. Tony was appointed to the Western CMA Board in November 2007. (Meetings attended: 10/11)



4.7 Committees

In addition to the Board the Western CMA also has three formal sub-committees.

Finance and Audit Sub-committee

The Finance and Audit Sub-committee primarily advises the Board on matters pertaining to the annual financial statements, but also is charged with governance issues, Natural Resource Commission audit reviews, conflict of interest policies, etc.

The Finance and Audit Sub-committee members are:

- Rory Treweek (Chairman)
- Andrew Mosely, Board member (Deputy Chairman)
- Diana Hoffman, Board member
- Daryl Green, General Manager
- Ken Harrison, Planning and Investment Manager

Landcare Steering Committee

The Landcare Steering Committee advises the Board on matters pertaining to Landcare, particularly in regard to recommendations for distribution of Landcare devolved grants. The Landcare Steering Committee is comprised entirely of landholders, one of whom is appointed by the Western CMA Board to sit on the committee.

The Landcare Steering Committee members are:

- Stuart Mosely (Chairman)
- Angus Geddes (Vice Chairman)
- Alastair McRobert
- Tim Davis
- Michelle O'Connor
- Marsha Colbran
- Faye Macpherson
- Ben Bartlett
- Don MacDonald
- Chris Ware
- Matthew Jackson
- Justin McClure, Western CMA Board member

Aboriginal Reference Advisory Group

The Aboriginal Reference Advisory Group (ARAG) advises the Board on matters pertaining to the Aboriginal community in the Catchment. It is the Western CMA's primary consultation mechanism with the Aboriginal community. Specifically the ARAG advises the Board on Aboriginal views on land management and projects contained in the Catchment Action Plan. The group comprises Aboriginal people specifically endorsed by their local community.

The Aboriginal Reference Advisory Group members are:

- Ben Flick (Chairman)
- Alma Bates-Hannah
- Alf Fazldeen
- George Fernando
- Joe Flick
- Guy Gibbs (Deputy Chairman)
- Paul Gordon
- Norman Hall
- Roger Hartnett
- Christine Hooper
- Edna Kelly
- Bill Kennedy
- Alan Lamb
- Gerald Quayle
- Bill Riley
- Max Sullivan
- Gordon Sullivan
- Bruce Turnbull

5. Strategic planning

5.1 Catchment Action Plan Progress and Natural Resource Commission Audits

The Western CMA's Catchment Action Plan was approved by Cabinet in January 2007. However, approval was dependent on the commitment of the Western CMA to meet several conditions, which were based on recommendations from the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to the Minister. The conditions focused on the Western CMA giving particular attention to improving its business systems, knowledge management processes, collaboration protocols, risk management, monitoring and evaluation, and priority setting frameworks.

The Western CMA was one of three CMAs subject to the first full audit by the NRC. The audit was held in late

May 2008. The full report was published by the NRC in December 2008 and is available at www.nrc.nsw.gov.au.

Under the terms of approval by NSW Cabinet, the Catchment Action Plan must be reviewed no earlier than two and a half years from approval.

Although due for review, the Western CMA Board has decided to delay undertaking this task until the completion of three external actions which will affect the Catchment Action Plan: The NRC audit of the Western CMA; a more general review of the State Plan and how Catchment Action Plans deliver on the State Plan; and a review of how Catchment Action Plans coordinate with Local Environmental Plans and other statutory mechanisms. Once these reviews have been completed, the Western CMA will commence the evaluation of its Catchment Action Plan.



Stripe-faced Dunnarts are one of many native species benefiting from the Enterprise Based Conservation project. Nine landholders are managing a total of 60,000 hectares across the Western Division for conservation for 15 years. Dick Whitford/ANTPhoto.com

5.2 Investment Strategies and Investment Program

Summary of incoming natural resource funding

Activity	Source of Funds	Amount 2008-09
2003-04 Investment Strategy: Perennial grass maintenance	NAP	\$12,000
2003-04 Investment Strategy: High conservation value areas	NAP	\$9,300
2003-04 Investment Strategy: Sustainable grazing BMP	NAP	\$12,000
2003-04 Investment Strategy: Conservation land use agreement	NAP	\$4,950
2003-04 Investment Strategy: Develop conservation industry	NAP	\$4,125
2003-04 Investment Strategy: Decision Support System climatic research - West	NAP	\$7,050
2003-04 Investment Strategy: Cultural heritage management	NAP	\$10,500
2004-08 Investment Strategy: Sustainable agriculture	NAP/NHT	\$433,088
2004-08 Investment Strategy: Landscape management	NAP/NHT	\$533,329
2004-08 Investment Strategy: Pests	NAP/NHT	\$365,302
2004-08 Investment Strategy: Aquatic habitat	NAP	\$1,495,187
2004-08 Investment Strategy: Water quality and salinity	NAP	\$577,114
2004-08 Investment Strategy: Surface water management	NAP	\$188,496
2004-08 Investment Strategy: Ground water management	NAP	\$75,515
2004-08 Investment Strategy: High conservation value area	NHT	\$223,470
2004-08 Investment Strategy: Conservation land use	NAP/NHT	\$183,944
2007-08 Investment Strategy: Cultural heritage, community education and support	NAP/NHT	\$404,089
2007-08 Investment Strategy: Monitoring and evaluation	NAP/NHT	\$133,696
2008-09 Investment Program: Base bid	Caring for our Country (CFOC)	\$2,400,000
2008-09 Investment Program: Base bid	Catchment Action NSW	\$1,125,000
2006-07 Investment Strategy: Pests (additional allocation)	NHT Interest	\$250,000
Protected Areas on Private Lands	NRS	\$13,200
FATE Program	University of NSW	\$24,065
WEST 2000 Plus	Australian Government	\$218,154
Drought and climate change project	Murrumbidgee CMA	\$100,000
Fire project	DECCW & Central West CMA	\$124,000
NSW Farmers Invasive Species Demonstration Project	NSW Farmers	\$108,148
2008-09 Landcare: Sustainable Practices	CFOC Sustainable Practices	\$150,000

Investment Strategy

The Western CMA acquitted all remaining funds from the 2004-08 Investment Strategy during the 2008-09 year. The Investment Strategy process has now been superseded by alternate federal/state arrangements under the Caring for our Country and NSW Catchment Action programs. During the 2009-10 year, the Western CMA will discharge its remaining reporting obligations under the old investment strategy. Further, the Western CMA is undertaking a review of its effectiveness in achieving milestones within the 2004-08 Investment Strategy.

Investment Program/Annual Implementation Plan

The Western CMA has submitted its 2009-10 Investment Program (incorporating the Annual Implementation Program). Approval from the NSW Minister for Climate Change and the Environment has been received. Due to the acquittal of previous programs and reduction in federal funding under the Caring for our Country Program, on-ground activities for the Western CMA as represented in the Investment Plan will be reduced.



"Cutting Edge" by James Turner of Waverton. Highly commended in the Primary Student section of the 2008 Life and Light in the Western Catchment photographic competition.

5.3 Summary of funds granted

Summary of funds granted to non-government bodies.

2003-04 Investment Strategy: Projects

Project	Recipient	Activity	Amount ex GST	Catchment Target	Statewide Target
Perennial grass maintenance	Landholder (1)	On-ground works	\$21,248	1	11
Climatic research	Landholder (5)	On-ground works	\$45,407	1	11

2004-08 Investment Strategy: Incentives

Program	Recipient	Activity	Amount ex GST	Catchment Target	Statewide Target
Sustainable agriculture	Landholders (29)	On-ground works	\$949,612	1	11
Landscape management	Landholders (4)	On-ground works	\$89,877	1	1
Aquatic habitat	Landholders (14)	On-ground works	\$618,802	2 & 3	5 & 8
Water quality	Landholder (1)	On-ground works	\$32,298	2 & 3	5 & 8
High conservation value	Landholder (8)	On-ground works	\$610,000	4a	2

2004-08 Investment Strategy: Projects

Project	Recipient	Activity	Amount ex GST	Catchment Target	Statewide Target
Aquatic habitat	Education/school/ university (3)	Training/education/ sponsorship/research	\$119,400	2 & 3	5 & 8
Water quality and salinity	Contractor (1)	Training/education/ sponsorship/research	\$16,912	2 & 3	5 & 8
Conservation land use	Contractors (2)	On-ground works	\$19,144	2 & 3	5 & 8
	Landholder (1)	On-ground works	\$806,785	4b	3
Community education and support	Landholders (30)	Training/education/ sponsorship/research	\$22,425	5	12 & 13
Monitoring and evaluation	Contractor (2)	Training/education/ sponsorship/research	\$123,400	5	12

NHT Regional Competitive Projects

Project	Recipient	Activity	Amount ex GST	Catchment Target	Statewide Target
The Next Steps: Land management options after capping and piping the bores	Education/school/ university (1)	Training/education/ sponsorship/research	\$23,180	1	11

National Landcare Program

Program	Recipient	Activity	Amount ex GST	Catchment Target	Statewide Target
Projects 2007-08	Landholder (1)	On-ground works	\$2,250	1	11

Other Sources

Program	Recipient	Activity	Amount ex GST	Catchment Target	Statewide Target
Murrumbidgee CMA	Landholders (22)	On-ground works	\$196,793	1	11

2008-09 Caring for our Country: Sustainable Practices

Program	Recipient	Activity	Amount ex GST	Catchment Target	Statewide Target
Landcare	Landholders (8)	On-ground works	\$89,577	1	10 & 11
	Community group (1)	On-ground works	\$3,500	1	10 & 11
	Community groups (5)	Training/education/ sponsorship/research	\$28,422	5	13

2008-09 Investment Program: Incentives

Program	Recipient	Activity	Amount ex GST	Catchment Target	Statewide Target
Landscape management	Landholders (35)	On-ground works	\$724,958	1	1
	Community group (1)	On-ground works	\$39,344	1	1
	Landholders (11)	Training/education/ sponsorship/research	\$33,889	1	1
	Education/school/ university (2)	Training/education/ sponsorship/research	\$4,195	1	1
Pests	Landholders (8)	On-ground works	\$175,642	1	4
	Community groups (2)	On-ground works	\$97,155	4b	4
Conservation land use	Landholder (1)	On-ground works	\$543,411	4a	3
High conservation value	Landholders (4)	On-ground works	\$240,000	1	2
Sustainable agriculture	Landholders (12)	On-ground works	\$295,491	1	11
	Community group (1)	On-ground works	\$10,449	1	11

Accumulated retained surplus: Incentives

Program	Recipient	Activity	Amount ex GST	Catchment Target	Statewide Target
Conservation land use	Landholder (1)	On-ground works	\$549,804	4b	3
Landscape management	Landholders (3)	On-ground works	\$58,848	1	1
Pests	Landholders (6)	On-ground works	\$188,609	1	4

Summary of funds granted to government bodies

2003-04 Investment Strategy: Projects

Project	Recipient	Activity	Amount ex GST	Catchment Target	Statewide Target
Sustainable farming	NSW Dept of Primary Industries	Training/education/ sponsorship/research	\$28,750	1	10

2004-08 Investment Strategy: Projects

Program	Recipient	Activity	Amount ex GST	Catchment Target	Statewide Target
High conservation value	Central Darling Shire Council	On-ground works	\$129,289	4a	2
Aquatic habitat	NSW Dept of Primary Industries	On-ground works	\$1,050,000	2 & 3	5 & 8
Pest animals	Darling Livestock Health & Pest Authority	On-ground works	\$290,000	1	4
	Western Livestock Health & Pest Authority	On-ground works	\$50,000	1	4

2008-09 Investment Program: Projects

Program	Recipient	Activity	Amount ex GST	Catchment Target	Statewide Target
Pests	Darling Livestock Health & Pest Authority	On-ground works	\$54,743	1	4
	Western Livestock Health & Pest Authority	On-ground works	\$30,147	1	4
Aquatic habitat	NSW Dept of Primary Industries	On-ground works	\$570,000	2 & 3	5 & 8
		Training/education/sponsorship/research	\$50,000	2 & 3	5 & 8

Western CMA Catchment Targets

Catchment Target 1: Quality and quantity of vegetation managed to maintain and/or improve designated cover capable of preventing soil erosion (i.e. designated cover greater than or equal to 40%).

Catchment Target 2: The Surface Water System Health Index Rating and the Groundwater System Health Index Rating improved at 60 % of relevant monitoring sites and maintained at all other monitoring sites by 2016.

Catchment Target 3: Salinity in the Barwon-Darling at Wilcannia less than 800EC for 80% of the time as measured on a daily basis and less than 350EC for 50% of the time by the year 2016.

Catchment Target 4a: Ecological communities of high conservation value are adequately protected.

Catchment Target 4b: In each of the other ecological communities, 12% of the area will be managed for conservation within 10 years of Plan approval and 25% within 25 years of Plan approval.

Catchment Target 5a: Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) program implemented across all relevant activities.

Catchment Target 5b: There is an increase in the capacity of Western CMA natural resource managers to contribute to regionally relevant natural resource management.

State-wide Targets for natural resource management**Biodiversity**

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

Water

- 5 By 2015 there is an improvement in the condition of riverine ecosystems.
- 6 By 2015 there is an improvement in the ability of groundwater systems to support groundwater-dependent ecosystems and designated beneficial uses.
- 7 By 2015 there is no decline in the condition of marine waters and ecosystems.
- 8 By 2015 there is an improvement in the condition of important wetlands, and the extent of those wetlands is maintained.
- 9 By 2015 there is an improvement in the condition of estuaries and coastal lake ecosystems.

Land

- 9 By 2015 there is an improvement in soil condition.
- 11 By 2015 there is an increase in the area of land that is managed within its capability.

Community

- 12 Natural resource decisions contribute to improving or maintaining economic sustainability and social wellbeing.
- 13 There is an increase in the capacity of natural resource managers to contribute to regionally relevant natural resource management



"Life among the drought" by Brodie Nugent. Winner Secondary Student section of the 2008 Life and Light in the Western Catchment photographic competition.

6. On-ground works

6.1 Catchment and management targets

A catchment target is an acceptable condition of natural resources at a specified point in time. A management target is the level of action needed to achieve a catchment target. The Western CMA's management targets are:

Catchment theme 1: Land and vegetation

Catchment target:

- Quality and quantity of vegetation managed to maintain and/or improve designated cover capable of preventing soil erosion (i.e. designated cover greater than or equal to 40%).

Management targets:

- Sustainable Agriculture Management practice carried out by 50% of landholders by 2016.
- Maintain and rehabilitate one million hectares of native pasture vegetation communities by 2016.
- No increase in the number of species or extent of pest weeds or animals above current levels and a reduction in the impact of pest species.

Catchment theme 2: Rivers and groundwater

Catchment targets:

- The Surface Water System Health Index Rating and the Groundwater System Health Index Rating improved at 60% of relevant monitoring sites by 2016.
- Salinity in the Barwon-Darling at Wilcannia less than 800EC for 80% of the time as measured on a daily basis and less than 350EC for 50% of the time by the year 2016.

Management targets:

- Habitat improvement actions implemented on 20% of identified priority areas of stream, floodplain, wetland and riparian areas by 2016.
- Water quality and salinity levels meeting ANZECC drinking water and recreational use criteria for greater than 95% of the time at key town use sites by 2016.
- Flow sharing arrangements including water sharing

plans implemented by the NSW Department of Water and Energy for all priority streams by 2010, with advice from the Western CMA on water management issues which affect the catchment community.

- Water pressure stabilised in key regions of the Great Artesian Basin, as defined by the NSW Great Artesian Basin Advisory Group, by 2016.

Catchment theme 3: Biodiversity

Catchment targets:

- Ecological communities of high conservation value are adequately protected.
- In each of the other ecological communities, 12% of the area will be managed for conservation within 10 years of Catchment Plan approval and 25% within 25 years of Catchment Plan approval.

Management targets:

- Ecological communities of high conservation value (including threatened species) are identified within three years of Catchment Plan approval and adequately protected throughout the Catchment by negotiation with landholders, within eight years of Catchment Plan approval.
- An ongoing program is established that allows landholders to incorporate lands managed for conservation as an alternative land use and part of a viable enterprise, within two years of Catchment Plan approval.

Catchment theme 4: Community

Management targets:

- Establish an Indigenous Natural Resource and Cultural Reference Group, within two years of Catchment Plan approval to formally coordinate the input of Aboriginal communities into natural resource management planning activities in the Western Catchment.
- Develop and assist the implementation of a process for the documentation, evaluation and ownership of Indigenous knowledge of sustainable land management and cultural values in the Western Catchment by 2009.

- There is a continual increase in land managers' awareness, knowledge and skills in natural resource management and adoption of practices which improve natural resource outcomes.
- Land managers and other natural resource managers are actively engaged in collaborative action to improve the management of natural resources through the development and implementation of regionally relevant natural resource management.
- There is a continual increase in the willingness of land managers, other stakeholders and the community to partner natural resource management organisations to deliver natural resource outcomes.

6.2 Native vegetation

Catchment Management Authorities are responsible for the administration of the Native Vegetation Act 2003 and Native Vegetation Regulation 2005. The Act and Regulation set out the framework for management of native vegetation in NSW.

CMA staff provide native vegetation management advice

and develop Property Vegetation Plans (PVPs) with landholders.

In 2008-2009 the Western CMA produced 35 PVPs covering a total area of over 362,000 ha (3,620 km²).

The majority of the PVPs are Invasive Native Scrub PVPs allowing management of invasive native scrub across more than 310 000 hectares (3,100 km²). The PVPs enable landholders to manage the invasive native scrub to restore a balanced landscape and maintain habitat.

The Western CMA also developed conservation PVPs. The conservation PVPs ensure the protection of more than 12,500 ha of native vegetation and habitat.

The areas specified within the conservation PVPs will be managed for the purpose of conservation. The PVPs require management, such as weed control and feral animal control, by landholders. In return for the management and conservation benefits, the landholder receives a payment from the CMA.

The CMA has funded many projects that will rehabilitate native perennial grass in large areas of the rangelands. Property Vegetation Plans are developed for such projects.



Western CMA Aboriginal Support Officer, Blackie Gordon, at the Old Brewarrina Mission Wetland which is being restored through the High Conservation Value program.

6.3 Incentives program

During the 08-09 financial year, \$5.5 million was allocated through the Western CMA's incentive program (including the Enterprise Based Conservation and High Conservation Value programs).

The funding went towards projects which meet the CMA's natural resource management targets.

\$3.2 million was allocated to land managers undertaking 102 natural resource management projects through the Western CMA's major incentive program held during the 2008-2009 financial year.

Major project funding included:

- \$1.2 million committed to 31 applicants for native pasture recovery. Land managers are using a total of 675 km of fencing to assist with the management of grazing pressure which will encourage native pasture growth on a total of 196,730 hectares (1,967 km²).
- \$778,240 committed to 24 applicants to treat 46,400 hectares (464 km²) affected by invasive native scrub using a range of techniques including chemical spot-treatment, chaining and raking. This is roughly equivalent to the area of Kinchega National Park. Although invasive native scrub or woody weeds are native plants, they out-compete native pastures while leads to bare and eroded soil, so their management is essential.
- \$91,590 committed to four applicants to rehabilitate 3,225 ha of rangelands using a range of measures including crocodiling and engineering works such as water-spreading.

As a result, native pasture recovery works was undertaken on an area of 246,375 ha (2,463 km²), which is equivalent to the area of the Australian Capital Territory or approximately four times the size of the Gundabooka National Park near Bourke.

- \$640,000 was committed to 14 applicants for riverine habitat and water quality improvements. 45 off-river watering points have been installed to stop stock accessing waterways and 434 km of waterways have been fenced (equivalent to the distance by road from Brewarrina to Wilcannia). As a result, 15,968 hectares (160 km²) of riverine vegetation is being protected, which is equivalent in size to the Ledknapper Nature Reserve near Enngonia.

- \$437,240 was committed to 14 applicants to control plant and animal pests. 47 trapyards have been constructed and control of pests such as pigs, foxes and rabbits is being undertaken on 4,180,000 ha with control of goats and kangaroos being undertaken on a further 74,060 ha. In addition, control of pest plants, such as Hudson Pear, is being undertaken on 6,940 ha.
- \$48,530 was committed to five applicants to encourage sustainable agriculture through conservation farming. Five machines are being converted to controlled traffic and no-till, resulting in 9,300 hectares (93 km²) of cropping land converted to minimum or no-till agriculture.
- \$139,900 was committed to training and research projects.
 - 57 people took part in various training courses, including environmental management systems, conservation farming, marketing and Aboriginal land management.
 - In addition, rangeland scientist, Gresley Wakelin-King, was contracted to conduct two research projects on contour furrowing and drylands geomorphology aimed at increasing knowledge of rangeland land functions to enable better land management in the future.

A further \$2.3 million was allocated through the High Conservation Value and Enterprise Based Conservation programs.

Fourteen landholders are managing 7,070 ha of high value ecological communities and cultural heritage area through the High Conservation Value program.

Through the Enterprise Based Conservation program, nine landholders within the NSW Western Division are now managing a total of 60,000 hectares for conservation products rather than agriculture until at least 2023.

The Western CMA continues to improve its application and assessment processes to ensure the best projects are funded. As well as improving natural resources, the incentives program injects much needed cash into communities affected by prolonged drought by supporting local suppliers and contractors.



A series of four fact sheets outlining sustainable farming principles for the Western Catchment were produced from a study into the effects of cropping on the chemical and physical properties of soil. The Department of Primary Industries was contracted to undertake the study of 56 red soil samples and 56 grey soil samples. Western CMA staff member, Anthony Azevedo is photographed with the fact sheets.

6.4 Broadscale Projects

Note: Budgets are indicative only and may be modified as projects progress.

Land and vegetation

Sustainable farming best management practice

This project develops best management guidelines for sustainable farming in the Western Catchment. Landholders meeting these guidelines will be given priority for incentive funds to implement on-ground work or to reach accreditation.

Current status (as at 1 July 2009):

This project has been completed. The DPI sampled soils at 56 red soil sites and 56 grey clay soil sites within the

eastern fringe of the Western Catchment. The samples were analysed for a range of chemical and physical properties and results interpreted in relation to the cropping history for each site. Trends from these results were then collated in four fact sheets which identify best management practice. The fact sheets are available on the Western CMA website at www.western.cma.nsw.gov.au.

Total project budget: \$235,000

Sustainable grazing best management practice

This project establishes a framework for pastoralists to align their grazing management systems with current best management principles. The development of formal industry accreditation is problematic due to the diverse nature of rangeland grazing enterprises. Progress towards

best practice is achieved through the delivery of grazing management training and the development of a series of fact sheets defining key management principles. On-ground works and training that progress sustainable grazing practices are given a high priority for incentive funding from the Western CMA.

Current status (as at 1 July 2009):

This project has been completed. Swift NRM (Queensland) is finalising the printing of a series of fact sheets documenting best practice rangeland grazing principles for the Catchment. The delivery of these fact sheets was delayed by editorial issues.

Total project budget: \$175,000

Landscape management

Specialist rangeland rehabilitation services are not commercially available within the Catchment despite knowledge gained from comprehensive research programs conducted during previous decades. There is strong demand from landholders for specific advice and design information on scald reclamation, gully stabilisation and the rehabilitation of perennial pastures. This project is re-establishing land rehabilitation skills within the Catchment, providing access to specialised equipment and an advisory service.

Current status (as at 1 July 2009):

Over the past 12 months more than 350 km of banks were surveyed over 11 properties. There has been an excellent result from these works which has been reflected in the strong level of interest for 2009 incentives funding. Due to the success of water-spreading projects on two of the properties ('Dijoe' and 'The Rookery') the landholders have held farm tours to show their peers. An excellent result has been achieved from water-ponding projects with over 500 ha of old-man salt bush and native grasses established on highly degraded scalded land. Four of the properties have rehabilitated degraded portions of their land using the 'crocodile' implement to improve moisture infiltration and establish native grasses. Pasture cropping techniques have continued to be used for this year's winter crops. A review detailing the success of previous contour furrowing activities has been completed and a report is in preparation.

Total project budget: \$160,000

The Next Steps Post Cap & Pipe the Bores program

Capping a Great Artesian Basin bore and piping of bore drains is a major shift in natural resource management for a landholder. This period of high change is an opportunity for the land manager to adjust management techniques and property infrastructure to deliver business goals and natural resource management objectives. This project worked closely with landholders to facilitate and provide options in making this natural resource management shift. Property planning, technical advice and incentive support for management changes were integral parts of the project.

The second facet of the project was to develop guidelines to assist landholders in mound spring management. Mound springs are high value ecological communities and often require protection.

Current status (as at 1 July 2009):

This project has been completed. The Great Artesian Basin Coordinating Committee and the Next Steps project collaborated to increase awareness of the Great Artesian Basin and artesian springs by developing a DVD on a wide range of aspects of the Great Artesian Basin. Filming was undertaken in three states and the DVD is now available from Western CMA offices.

Training and on-farm programs highlighting the value of better land management practices that become available with capped and piped bores were implemented with landholders.

Artesian spring research continues with grazing exclusion experiment (now in its third year) and soil seed bank surveys at eight spring groups in north-western NSW and south-western Queensland. The study will quantify both the nature and significance of vegetation remaining on artesian springs and the impact of excluding grazing from artesian springs. This knowledge will be used to develop appropriate management strategies which balance production with the Aboriginal cultural significance and the environmental values of the sites.

Two Dual Outcomes projects have highlighted the management practices that can produce benefits for biodiversity as well as production. Outputs include a literature review, a series of three fact sheets and web resources.

Total project budget: \$750,000

Feral pig control in the Northern Catchment (Cuttaburra Clean-Up)

Capitalising on the success of previous programs involving a range of stakeholders including Livestock Health and Pest Authorities (LHPAs), the DPI, the DECCW and landholder/community input this project is implementing a three-stage process of feral pig control incorporating aerial shooting, trapping and baiting. All works were carried out in the Darling LHPA area and involved two separate programs of aerial shooting, as well as trapping and baiting feral pigs in priority sites. The project also includes extensive monitoring by landholders over a ten year period.

Current status (as at 1 July 2009):

This project comprises two separate sets of activities over a 12 month period.

- 20 individual properties and over 150 landholders participating in the program.
- 7,650 feral pigs destroyed
- 24 traps built and distributed, and over 350 tins of poison distributed to landholders.

Total project budget: \$250,000



A coordinated program of aerial shooting, baiting and trapping resulted in 7,650 feral pigs culled during an eight month period. Feral pigs prey on stock and spread disease. They damage land condition and water quality, particularly fragile wetland ecosystems.

Ledknapper wild dog control

Intensive wild dog control has been undertaken in a prioritised area within the Western Catchment. Short-

term intervention to address increased wild dog activity within the area east of Enngonia, west of the Culgoa, and north of the Darling up to the Queensland border has involved multiple stakeholders, integrated control measures, training, monitoring and evaluation.

Current status (as at 1 July 2009):

This project has been completed. The Ledknapper Wild Dog Action Group has undergone extensive training with expert pest animal practitioners. Integrated baiting programs have also been implemented and professional trappers have been engaged in a strategic manner with excellent results. The project has been coordinated with the assistance of the Darling LHPA and DECCW as well as specific monitoring and training from both the NSW and Queensland Department of Primary Industries. This project has had positive outcomes for production and biodiversity. Further development to this program is expected which will include integrated pest animal management programs based on a similar model.

Total project budget: \$80,000

Weed Control Programs

The Western CMA has taken a partnership approach to weed control in the catchment. This includes small-scale projects with Local Weed Authorities to control discrete infestations of Athel Pine, African Boxthorn and Parkinsonia. On a larger scale, Mesquite has been addressed in the far western of the Catchment through collaboration with the Lower Murray Darling CMA, Livestock Health and Pest Authorities, landholders and specialised contractors. A partnership approach has been established with South Australian Arid Lands NRM through Caring for our Country to address Athel Pine on ephemeral streams in the Western Catchment. The Hudson Pear Taskforce is coordinating treatment and monitoring of Hudson Pear cactus infestations on 60,000 hectares in the Lightning Ridge area and is undertaking a public awareness campaign. The Hudson Pear Taskforce comprises a range of partners including local landholders and miners groups, the Castlereagh Macquarie County Council, Walgett Shire Council, four government agencies and the Western CMA.

Current status (as at 1 July 2009):

All these programs will be progressed over the next twelve months

Total project investment: over \$300,000 to date

Rivers and groundwater

Aquatic habitat - demonstration reach from Brewarrina to Bourke

This is a joint initiative between the Western CMA and the DPI to improve the aquatic habitat in the Barwon-Darling River from Brewarrina to Bourke. Native fish populations will be protected and encouraged by improving passage and habitat within the river system through fish ladder installation, discouraging carp populations, improving feed sources and increased riverbank stability.

Current status (as at 1 July 2009):

Additional re-slagging was undertaken by DPI during 2008-09. A total of 454 snags have now been installed

at priority sites along the demonstration reach.

Construction of the proposed fishway for the Brewarrina weir has been delayed through finalising approval processes and it is anticipated that construction will occur during 2009-10. The design of a vertical slot fishway in the Bourke weir is completed. Two Outback Carp Musters have been held in conjunction with local angling clubs. Local provenance long-stem tree seedlings have been propagated and planted in spring 2008, targeting areas adjacent to the Back o' Bourke Centre. Several landholders have been engaged with riparian rehabilitation works including gully stabilisation and fencing to exclude stock.

Total project budget: \$2.5 million over three years



Two carp musters were held as part of the Brewarrina to Bourke Demonstration Reach project. This project aims to improve the aquatic habitat in the Barwon-Darling River, including increasing native fish numbers.

Aquatic habitat – Wilcannia river rehabilitation project

The Western CMA has initiated planning for riverine rehabilitation works in the reaches of the Darling River in the vicinity of Wilcannia. In this area the river environs remain in fairly good condition and there are good opportunities to engage the community in rehabilitation activities.

Current status (as at 1 July 2009):

This project has been completed. A comprehensive habitat rehabilitation plan was completed by DPI and presented to the Wilcannia community in December 2008.

Aquatic habitat – Wilcannia Make More Fish

In 2008, Western CMA contracted DPI to prepare a river rehabilitation plan for a 60 km reach of the Darling River centred on the township of Wilcannia. This plan arose through consultations with the Wilcannia community. Following on from this assessment, in 2008-09 DPI was contracted to undertake on-ground river rehabilitation works for priority sections of the river identified in the planning report.

Current status (as at 1 July 2009):

On-ground works included the installation of 525 snags during June 2009 at sites along identified priority sections of the Darling River to improve fish habitat. The snag timber was sourced near Nymagee from areas where suitable logs had been legally cleared. Baseline monitoring of fish populations was conducted as a basis for assessing long-term improvements in habitat condition. Strategic fencing is being undertaken on travelling stock reserve land at Streamers Point to protect riparian areas from unrestricted grazing. Training in revegetation techniques was provided to members of the Aboriginal community through TAFE.

Current project budget: \$450,000

Community Gross Pollutant Trapping program

Pollution affects water quality in the Barwon-Darling River. In this project a strategic stormwater review was undertaken for all councils in the Western Catchment.

Current status (as at 1 July 2009):

Contracts have been entered into with Walgett, Brewarrina, Bourke and Central Darling Shire Councils to install 22 gross pollutant traps at priority sites within those communities. In most cases installations

are completed and the maintenance of the units is incorporated into the management plans of the respective shires. Where installations are not finalised, all gross pollutant trap units have been built and delivered to sites and works scheduled for the installation. Some shires are capitalising on the media and interest in the works to implement stormwater education programs for school students and the general public.

Total project budget: \$737,200



A series of six signs containing information about water quality issues along the Barwon-Darling River were erected. Ray Bennett, Chair of the Ngemba Billabong Restoration and Landcare Group and Ben Flick, Chair of the Western Catchment Aboriginal Reference Advisory Group inspect the sign at Brewarrina.

Biodiversity**High conservation value areas**

The Western CMA contracted the DECCW to identify high conservation value areas in the Western Catchment. The products will be used to identify and rank high conservation value areas on a number of criteria, depending on the conservation values that the CMA is seeking to protect.

Current status (as at 1 July 2009):

The project products were delivered late in July 2009, with some final work needing completion. On-ground projects have included the negotiation of 7,000 ha of designated high conservation value areas under



Members of the Western Catchment Aboriginal Reference Advisory Group met in Collarenebri in December 2008.

specific conservation management, including a Property Vegetation Plan. The Catchment community interest in this program continues to grow, with the Western CMA allocating significant resources to follow-up programs under Caring for Our Country.

Total project budget: \$920,000

Develop conservation industry

This project focuses on turning conservation into a viable economic enterprise and alternate landuse for landholders in the Western Catchment. An economic framework has been developed for landholders to receive a reasonable return for managing land for conservation. The actual rates of return and requirements for management have been estimated by this project.

Current status (as at 1 July 2009):

This project has been completed. A business case has been developed for the Rangelands Trust for

Enterprise Based Conservation as a basis for approaching government and other investors to fund conservation on privately leased land in the Western Catchment. This will be circulated among key funding organisations including the Australian and NSW Governments, as well as non-government organisations, seeking financial support to establish the Trust.

Total project budget: \$68,000

Enterprise Based Conservation in the Western Division rangelands

This project provides the resources to implement the model developed under the 'Develop Conservation Industry' project. It provides the mechanism to deliver Enterprise Based Conservation into the rangelands of Australia. It provides a financial outcome for landholders to manage land for specific conservation goals as a viable alternative to traditional grazing enterprises.

The Western CMA has developed a comprehensive proposal and business plan, which is currently being considered by the NSW and Australian Governments.

Current status (as at 1 July 2009):

Nine Enterprise Based Conservation projects have been established across the Western Division, resulting in the management of a total of 60,000 ha for conservation for a period of 15 years. Six of these projects are located within the Western Catchment, conserving parts of the Paroo-Cuttaburra wetlands, stony saltbush-bluebush downs and Cobar Peneplain landscapes. Each project involves the exclusion of grazing while providing an income for landholders to undertake conservation management on the lands.

Total project budget: \$4.16 million (over Western Division of NSW, including the Western, Lower Murray Darling and Lachlan Catchments)

A wide range of flora and fauna has been identified within these sites, including:

- Mallee fowl
- Pygmy possums
- Gidgee
- Mitchell grass
- Yapunyah
- Bladder Saltbush
- Leopardwood
- Lignum channels
- Mallee sandhills
- Bluebush-mallee complex
- River red gum open forest
- Bimble box-mulga community
- Saltbush-bluebush community on Stony Downs bioregion
- Sand-plain mulga
- Nelia endangered ecological community
- Whitewood-western rosewood community
- Coolibah-black box endangered ecological community
- Brigalow-gidgee endangered ecological community
- Belah/black oak-western rosewood-leopardwood community
- Black box woodland
- Coolibah-River Coobah-Lignum community
- Belah-Rosewood community

Clay pans containing numerous Aboriginal artefacts also occur on many of the protected lands.

Community

Cultural heritage

This project establishes mechanisms that raise awareness, increase knowledge, understanding, motivation, engagement, commitment and confidence within the Aboriginal community to achieve sustainable natural resource management.

Current status (as at 1 July 2009):

The Western CMA Aboriginal Reference Advisory Group (ARAG) met four times during the year, providing advice to the CMA Board. The ARAG is continuing its work to develop a model for capturing and maintaining Aboriginal land management knowledge.

Total project budget: \$50,000

Community education and support

This project establishes mechanisms that raise awareness, increase knowledge, understanding, motivation, engagement, commitment and confidence within the community to achieve sustainable natural resource management.

Current status (as at 1 July 2009):

This is an ongoing project. Eight staff members have been employed. The Western CMA facilitated a number of forums, public meetings or training courses during the 2008-09 year. In addition, the Western CMA participated in 20 public events. In total, natural resource management information was provided to approximately 1,400 people. These events are listed in Appendix D3 of this report.

Total project budget: \$1.3 million

Monitoring and evaluation

This project is implementing Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) systems for the Western CMA. It ensures that a framework is in place to monitor the appropriateness, efficiency and effectiveness both at the Catchment Plan scale and at the project level.

Current status (as at 1 July 2009):

Several MERI activities have been undertaken through the year, consistent with the draft plan. These have included a social benchmarking survey, performance monitoring, 04/08 Investment Strategy review, improvements to spatial data capture and developing a

riparian monitoring framework.

Total project budget: Funded on an as needs basis

Other

Managing for drought and climate change

The DPI and eight inland CMAs participated in this program to assist landholders with long-term drought preparedness. Western CMA directed funds to a Prepare for the Next Drought incentives program. Landholders were required to attend two drought management training courses to qualify for financial assistance to improve farm infrastructure for drought readiness.

Current status (as at 1 July 2009):

During 2008-09 a second round of 29 drought preparedness incentive projects were funded through this project.

Total project budget: \$550,000

Future of Australia's Threatened Ecosystems

Future of Australia's Threatened Ecosystems (FATE) is a University of NSW project aimed at encouraging commercial activities within rural communities based on the sustainable utilisation of native fauna. In the Barrier Range area north of Broken Hill, the FATE project trialled the involvement of a group of landholders in kangaroo harvesting in conjunction with local shooters and processors. The intent is for landholders to value kangaroos as a resource rather than a pest.

Current status (as at 1 July 2009):

This project has been completed. Western CMA continued to provide office support for the FATE project officer during 2008-09. Owing to a change in staff and the wind-up of the work during 2009, the project officer was directly employed by the University of NSW.

The Western CMA provided support to the Future of Australia's Threatened Ecosystems (FATE) project, which aims to encourage landholders to value kangaroos as a resource rather than a pest. Dave Watts/ANTPhoto.com



7. Financial statements

Western Catchment Management Authority

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:

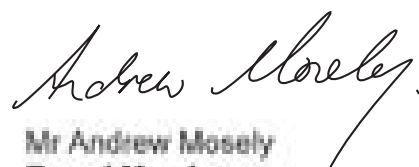
- (a) The accompanying financial report exhibits a true and fair view of the financial position of the Western Catchment Management Authority as at 30 June 2009, and transactions for the year ended.
- (b) The financial report has been prepared in accordance with:
 - The applicable Australian Accounting 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



Mr Rory Treweek
Chairman

Dated: 7/10/09.



Mr Andrew Mosely
Board Member

GPO BOX 12
Sydney NSW 2001**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

Western Catchment Management Authority

To Members of the New South Wales Parliament

I have audited the accompanying financial report of Western 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 416 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.

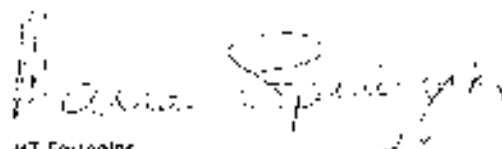
ity opinion does not provide assurance:

- 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.



M.T. Springlin
Director, Financial Audit Services

20 October 2009
SYDNEY

Start of audited financial report**Income Statement
for the year ended 30 June 2009**

	Note	Actual 2009 \$'000	Actual 2008 \$'000
Revenue			
Revenue	3	11,622	9,579
Other income	4	837	894
Total revenue		12,459	10,473
Expenses			
Personnel services expenses	5	3,166	3,173
Other operating expenses	5	1,713	2,072
Depreciation	5	16	10
Grants and subsidies	5	9,372	10,123
Total expenses		14,267	15,378
Deficit for the year	11	(1,808)	(4,905)

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	(1,808)	(4,905)
Total recognised income and expense for the year		(1,808)	(4,905)

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

	Note	Actual 2009 \$'000	Actual 2008 \$'000
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	3,806	7,108
Receivables	7	559	821
Total current assets		4,365	7,929
Non-current assets			
Plant and equipment	8	40	64
Total non-current assets		40	64
Total assets		4,405	7,993
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Payables	9	607	2,396
Provisions	10	447	439
Total current liabilities		1,054	2,835
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	10	3	2
Total non-current liabilities		3	2
Total liabilities		1,057	2,837
Net assets		3,348	5,156
Equity			
Retained surplus	11	3,348	5,156
Total equity		3,348	5,156

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

Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 30 June 2009

	Note	Actual 2009 \$'000	Actual 2008 \$'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from customers and government		13,502	10,705
Payments to suppliers		(7,858)	(6,048)
		5,644	4,657
Grants and subsidies paid		(9,372)	(10,123)
Interest received		417	581
Net cash flows from operating activities	12	(3,311)	(4,885)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment and intangibles		-	(17)
Proceeds from sale of plant and equipment		9	-
Net cash flows from investing activities		9	(17)
Net (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(3,302)	(4,902)
Opening cash and cash equivalents		7,108	12,010
Closing cash and cash equivalents	6	3,806	7,108

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 Western 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 7 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.

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.

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.

(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 2008-2 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 2008-9 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 disclosures;
- 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)	8,198	6,071
Operating grant funding	2,522	2,540
Other contributions (ii)	902	968
	11,622	9,579

- (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	417	581
Gain on disposal of plant and equipment	-	32
Other	420	281
	837	894

Note 5 - Expenses

	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Personnel services expenses		
Salaries and wages (including recreation leave)	2,631	2,638
Staff on-costs	535	535
	3,166	3,173
Other operating expenses		
Auditors remuneration (i)	11	12
Board Member's remuneration (ii)	163	168
Board Member's and Committees costs	37	61
Contractors	222	399
Fees for services	139	244
Bad Debts	-	40
Insurance	9	12
Accommodation and related expenses	287	251
Stores, materials and minor equipment	208	161
Plant/vehicle expenses	315	377
Travel	170	187
Other	152	160
	1,713	2,072
Depreciation	16	10
Grants and subsidies	9,372	10,123
Total	14,267	15,378

(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	499	2,544
NSW Treasury Corporation - HourGlass cash facility	3,307	4,564
	3,806	7,108

Also refer to Note 15.

Included in the cash and cash equivalents is \$3.803 million (2008 - \$7.105 million) which is a restricted asset. These funds are required to be spent to achieve specific natural resource outcomes under funding agreements and arrangements.

Note 7 - Current Assets - Receivables

	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Accounts receivable	143	431
Less: Allowance for impairment	-	(40)
Goods and Services Tax recoverable	406	411
Accrued income	10	18
Other amounts receivable	-	1
	559	821

Also refer to Note 15.

Note 8 - Non-Current Assets - Plant and Equipment

	Plant and Equipment \$'000	Total \$'000
At 1 July 2008		
Gross carrying amount	97	97
Accumulated depreciation	(33)	(33)
Net carrying amount	64	64
At 30 June 2009		
Gross carrying amount	87	87
Accumulated depreciation	(47)	(47)
Net carrying amount	40	40

Reconciliation

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

	Plant and Equipment \$'000	Total \$'000
Year ended 30 June 2009		
Net carrying amount at start of year	64	64
Additions	-	-
Disposals	(8)	(8)
Depreciation expense	(16)	(16)
Net carrying amount at end of year	40	40
Year ended 30 June 2008		
Net carrying amount at start of year	25	25
Additions	17	17
Assets recognised first time	32	32
Depreciation expense	(10)	(10)
Net carrying amount at end of year	64	64

Note 9 - Current Liabilities - Payables

	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Accrued personnel services	29	19
Creditors	99	645
Accruals	210	614
Other	269	1,118
	607	2,396

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	356	369
On-costs	94	72
	450	441
Aggregate personnel services and related on-costs		
Provisions - current	447	439
Provisions - non-current	3	2
	450	441

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

Note 11 - Changes in Equity

	Retained Surplus		Total Equity	
	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Balance at the beginning of the financial year	5,156	10,061	5,156	10,061
(Deficit) for the year	(1,808)	(4,905)	(1,808)	(4,905)
Balance at the end of the financial year	3,348	5,156	3,348	5,156

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	(1,808)	(4,905)
Depreciation	16	10
Net Value of assets recognised first time	-	(32)
Net loss on sale of non-current assets	(1)	-
Decrease/(Increase) in receivables	262	(187)
Decrease/(Increase) in payables and provisions	(1,780)	229
Net cash flows from operating activities	(3,311)	(4,885)

Note 13 - Commitments for Expenditure

	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
(a) Other expenditure commitments		
Not later than one year	15	23
Later than one year and not later than 5 years	-	-
Later than 5 years	-	-
Total	15	23

The commitments above include GST of \$1K (2008: \$2K), expected to be recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office.

(b) Operating lease 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	118	108
Later than one year and not later than 5 years	49	23
Later than 5 years	-	-
Total	167	131

The commitments above include GST of \$15K (2008: \$12K), 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	378	2,362
Later than one year and not later than 5 years	-	-
Later than 5 years	-	-
Total	378	2,362

The commitments above include GST of \$34K (2008: \$215K), 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

The Authority is not aware of any material contingent liability (2008: \$Nil). Apart from the amounts disclosed in Note 13, 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 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Cash and cash equivalents	6	N/A	3,806	7,108
Receivables ¹	7	Loans and receivables (at amortised cost)	153	410
Financial Liabilities	Note	Category	Carrying Amount	Carrying Amount
Class:			2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Payables ²	9	Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	607	2,396

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: \$143K 2008: \$387K) and not less than 1 month past due (2009: \$Nil; 2008: \$Nil) are not considered impaired and together these represent 100% of the total trade debtors (2008: 90%). 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	4	4	-
3 months - 6 months overdue	-	-	-
> 6 months overdue	40	-	40

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.

		Weighed Average Effective Int. Rate	Nominal Amount \$'000	Interest Rate Exposure		Maturity Dates		
				Fixed Interest Rate \$'000	Variable Interest Rate \$'000	<1 year \$'000	1-5 years \$'000	>5 years \$'000
2009								
Payables:								
Accrued salaries, wages and on-costs								
	N/A	29	-	-	29	-	-	
Creditors	N/A	99	-	-	99	-	-	
		128	-	-	128	-	-	
2008								
Payables:								
Accrued salaries, wages and on-costs								
	N/A	19	-	-	19	-	-	
Creditors	N/A	645	-	-	645	-	-	
		664	-	-	664	-	-	

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.

		\$'000			
	Carrying Amount	Profit	(-1%) Equity	Profit	+1% Equity
2009					
Financial assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	3,806	(38)	(38)	38	38
Receivables	153	(2)	(2)	2	2
Financial liabilities					
Payables	607	6	6	(6)	(6)
2008					
Financial assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	7,108	(71)	(71)	71	71
Receivables	410	(4)	(4)	4	4
Financial liabilities					
Payables	2,396	24	24	(24)	(24)

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	3,307	4,564

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., 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).

Hour Glass Investment Cash Facility

Change in unit price	Impact on profit/loss	
	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
+1%	33	46
-1%	(33)	(46)

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 (2008: \$Nil).

End of audited financial statements.

8. Appendices

APPENDIX A: Research and development

The Western CMA invests in research specifically in order to improve management and investment decisions. It is not typically a research body, nor does it fund basic research.

Current research focuses on:

- scoping what information already exists to ensure gaps in knowledge are identified
- establishing the current status of issues within the Catchment
- identifying and mapping areas of high priority for targeted management
- developing best management practice guidelines.

During 2008-09 two projects which fit into one of these categories were finalised or nearing completion.

Managing rangeland vegetation with fire

Research points toward a change in fire regimes (particularly a decline in the incidence of fire) as a major factor contributing to the global phenomenon of the thickening and spread of native woody species (locally termed 'invasive native scrub') on semi-arid rangelands. Whilst this evidence suggests that a reintroduction of burning may be a useful approach to managing invasive scrub, for various reasons it has not been widely adopted on properties in Western NSW. However, fire is becoming more attractive as the costs of other treatments rise. Additionally, improved control of grazing pressure now implemented on many western properties opens more options to manage fuel loads and burn when seasonal conditions permit.

The Western CMA entered a partnership with DECCW to host a project reviewing the role of fire in managing rangeland vegetation. This project aimed to understand the success factors for using fire in controlling invasive scrub.

The project has been completed, resulting in the development of:

- case studies on the use of fire for managing invasive

native scrub, including the identification of barriers to its use. Approximately forty landholders were approached to document their knowledge.

- a literature review that assessed regional and global scientific information on the management of rangeland vegetation with fire. Substantial research on the use of fire in Western NSW already exists. However, there is a growing body of information on this issue at national and global levels. The review presents a series of recommendations based on available science to validate further CMA policy in the use of fire.
- several fact sheets presenting best management principles for managing rangeland vegetation with fire, combining the case studies and the review of scientific research.

The project was coordinated with the Invasive Scrub Research Program hosted by Central West CMA. Follow-up project activities will be maintained by the Western CMA and through products generated through the Invasive Scrub Research Program.

Wetlands on Farms

Through the Wetlands on Farms (WOF 1) project, facilitated by DPI, wetland management plans and digitised property maps were completed for 11 properties. These properties were identified in the Identification and Protection of Important Wetlands project during 2007-08. The Western CMA funded a project officer to facilitate this activity. The project officer consulted widely and sought expert advice to produce best management practice guidelines for wetlands in inland NSW. This resource has been retitled 'Recommendations for management of wetlands on farms in inland NSW', and produced as a glove box style resource. This publication encompasses environmental and production issues, their impacts, and management recommendations for on farm inland wetlands. The Recommendations and Wetland Management Plans were produced concurrently.

The Wetlands on Farms program was extended into 2008-09 (WOF 2) with the development of an additional 10 management plans and digitised maps.



As part of the Wilcannia Make More Fish program, 525 snags were reintroduced at twelve priority sites near Wilcannia. Judy Drewery of Warrawong Station is photographed with two of the re-snagging sites located on her property.

Willing Wetlands on Farms landholders received management plans that incorporated both their aspirations and the benefits of DPI technical expertise. It is important to recognise that conservation management of wetlands may still include grazing. These plans recognise the importance of both the conservation and productive value of wetlands. They suggest strategies that see grazing and conservation coexist to help ensure the long term environmental and productive viability

of wetland and riparian habitat. These landholders are in a good position to receive funding from the CMA for conservation management.

Ten of the 21 landholders involved in Wetlands on Farms 1 and 2 programs have indicated they intend to apply for funding from the Western CMA's 2009 incentive round, under the High Conservation Value, Riparian and Water Quality, and Sustainable Grazing Management programs.

APPENDIX B: People and policies

B1. Staff statistics

Summary of staff employed by the Western CMA as at 30 June 2009:

Category	1/7/2008 - 30/6/2009
Permanent (recurrently funded)	19 (16)
Temporary (program funded)	17
TOTAL	36

B2. Consultants engaged

There were no consultants engaged by the Western CMA for the period 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009.

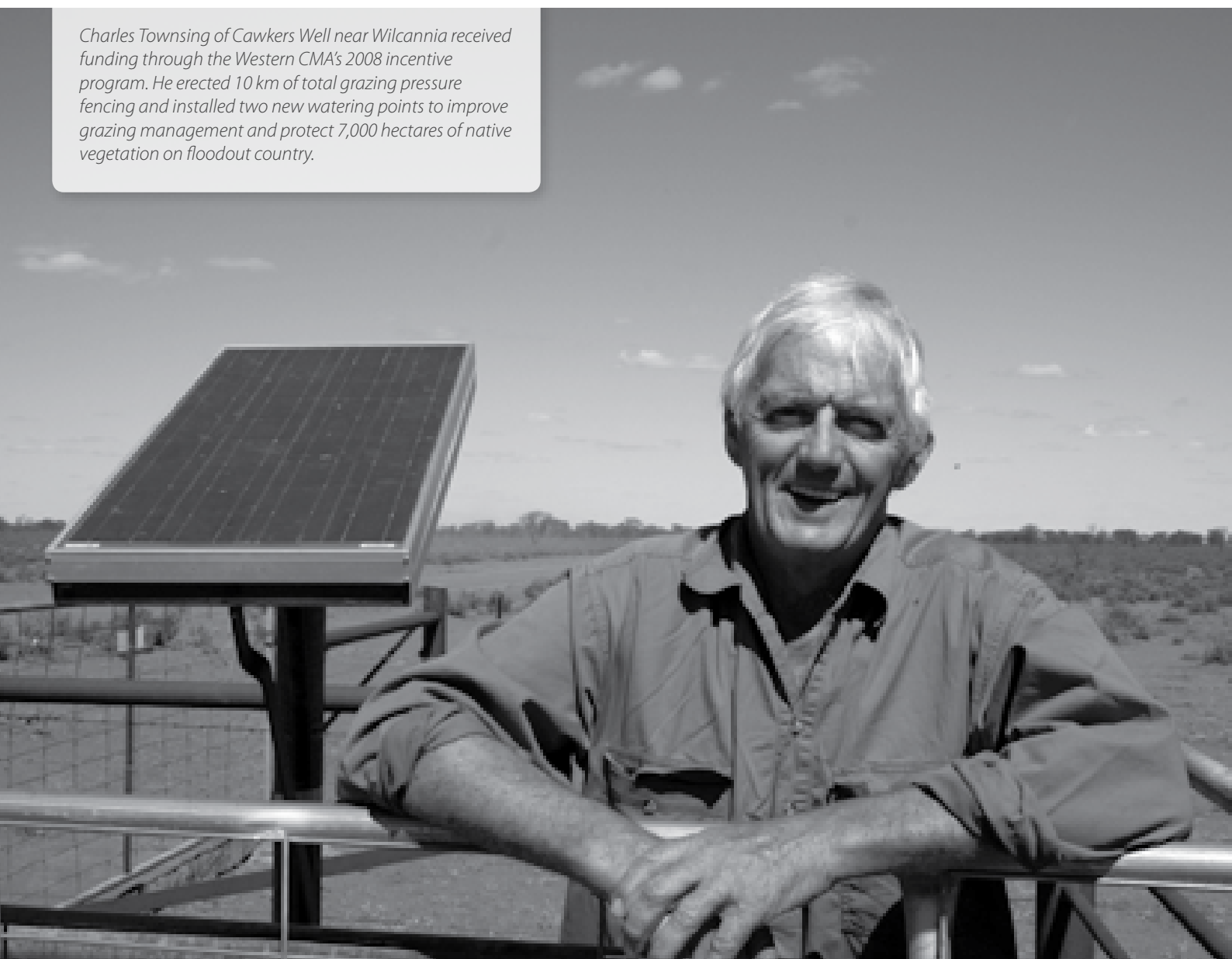
B3. Performance and numbers of executive officers

General Manager:	Daryl Green
Date appointed:	8 June 2004
Performance Review:	August 2008
Remuneration Package:	\$132,816

B4. NSW Government Action Plan for Women

The NSW Government is strongly committed to a whole of government approach to the principles of equity, access, rights and participation for women. The Government continues to build on achievements to

Charles Townsing of Cawkers Well near Wilcannia received funding through the Western CMA's 2008 incentive program. He erected 10 km of total grazing pressure fencing and installed two new watering points to improve grazing management and protect 7,000 hectares of native vegetation on floodout country.



remove obstacles to women's full participation in society. This recognises that in some areas of social, political and economic life, women have different experiences and needs than men. The NSW Government Action Plan provides a mechanism for leadership and management of coordinated strategies across government agencies.

The Catchment Management Authorities are committed to the aims and objectives of the NSW Government Action Plan for Women.

The Western CMA employed 22 female staff (59 per cent of employees) during the 2008-2009 financial year. One woman, Diana Hoffman, served on the Western CMA Board over the reporting period.

B5. Ethnic Affairs Priorities Statements

As DECCW is the host employer for the CMAs, DECCW's personnel policies and practices extend in coverage to all CMAs. These policies and practices include an Ethnic Affairs Priority Statement.

DECCW's EAPS outlines key strategies and actions to assist in achieving the Government's policies in ethnic

affairs and the principles of cultural diversity. The EAPS is based on four key objectives: leadership; community harmony; access and equity; and economic and cultural opportunities, including tourism and employment.

B6. Disability plans

As DECCW is the host employer for the CMAs, DECCW's personnel policies and practices extend in coverage to all CMAs. These policies and practices include disability plans.

DECCW is currently revising and further developing its agency-wide Disability Action Plan that continues to improve employment, access and services for staff and the public.

B7. Equal Employment Opportunity

As DECCW is the host employer for the CMAs, DECCW's personnel policies and practices extend in coverage to all CMAs. These policies and practices include Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO).

Statistical information on EEO target groups

EEO Group	Benchmark or target	Percentage of total staff			
		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Women	50%	52%	56%	51%	59%
Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders	2%	14%	13%	10%	11.5%
People whose first language was not English	19%	7%	6%	0	0%
People with a disability	12%	0	0	0	5%
People with a disability requiring work-related adjustment	7%	0	0	0	5.3%

¹ Staff numbers are as at 30 June 2009

² Excludes casual staff

B8. Occupational Health and Safety

As DECCW is the host employer for the CMAs, DECCW's personnel policies and practices extend in coverage to all CMAs. These policies and practices include Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) policies.

The Board of the Western CMA has adopted DECCW's OH&S policies as listed on the intranet. The Western CMA is overhauling its OH&S policies and procedures to more closely align with DECCW's established processes, including establishment of an OH&S committee and OH&S training.

There have not been any significant OH&S incidents this year. The Western CMA has provided each field officer with boots, hats and sunglasses to OH&S standards.

B9. Code of Conduct

The Department of Premier and Cabinet Code of Conduct was adopted when the CMAs were established in 2003. All Western CMA Board members and staff are required to declare any potential conflicts of interest (including nil returns).

B10. Russel Harland Memorial Scholarship

The Russel Harland Scholarship is awarded annually to a university student who displays strong personal community and educational commitment to rural or regional areas, and particularly the Western Catchment.

The 2009 Russel Harland Memorial Scholarship recipient was Sarah McDonald from Condobolin. Sarah is completing a Bachelor of Natural Resources at the University of New England, Armidale.

The purpose of the scholarship is to attract graduates to careers in far western NSW. Former recipient Matt Goulton demonstrates the success of this approach as he has continued his association with the Western CMA, working in the Broken Hill office. Scholarship recipients Jenny Sandow and Gemma Odewahn are completing their degrees and undertaking work placement with the Western CMA during their university holidays.

APPENDIX C: Administration

C1. Legislation

In carrying out its role, the Catchment Management Authorities operate under the following NSW Legislation:

- *Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003 No 104*
- *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983*
- *Public Finance and Audit Act Regulation 2000*
- *Public Sector Management Act 1988*
- *Annual Reports Act (Statutory Bodies) 1984*
- *Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Regulation 2000*
- *Native Vegetation Act 2003 No 103*
- *Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997 No 133*
- *Soil Conservation Act 1938 No 10.*

Sarah McDonald was awarded the 2009 Russel Harland Memorial Scholarship.



C2. Privacy

In the 2008-09 reporting period, there were no requests 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, DECCW has a Privacy Management Plan governing the collection, retention, accuracy, use and disclosure of personal information, including rights of access and correction.

C3. Freedom of Information

As in the 2007-08 reporting period, no applications were received during the 2008-09 reporting period.

C4. Consumer response

No official complaints were received during the reporting period.

C5. Quarterly summary of Accounts Payable

Note: Payment processing and other financial services provided by ServiceFirst, a service provider of the Department of Commerce. Performance statistics in this section primarily relate to ServiceFirst's handling of payments.

Aged analysis at the end of each quarter

Quarter	Total Accounts Paid on Time			Total Amount Paid \$
	Target %	Actual %	\$	
September	90	91	4,515,463	4,752,131
December	90	89	1,824,007	1,912,086
March	90	73	998,124	1,290,181
June	90	82	4,777,268	6,262,539

Accounts paid on time within each quarter

Quarter	Current (ie. within due date) \$	Less than 30 days overdue \$	Between 30 & 60 days overdue \$	Between 60 & 90 days overdue \$	More than 90 days overdue \$
September	22,386	4,433	340	258	0
December	198	607	1,589	0	3,814
March	176,733	0	0	427	225
June	57,750	40,917	0	0	206

Notes on above table

Percentage of accounts paid on time is based on SAP Payment Analysis Report, which compares vendor masterfile payment terms, invoice document date and payment document date to determine if payment was made on time, and if not, how many days it was late. The dollar value is the actual dollar value of the documents in each column (i.e. paid on time, not paid on time), so the percentage is based on documents, not dollar value.

Comments

Initiatives to improve payment performance include:

- tightening controls to ensure correct data entry of payment terms and invoice dates in SAP
- prioritising vouchers as they are received in Financial

Operations so invoices due for payment first get processed first

- using extra resources to ensure smooth workflow during peak periods
- improving compliance with the tax system by vendors and Departmental staff.

Procure-to-Pay was established in Accounts Payable in November 2006. This is an across-government initiative to streamline payment of accounts.

Penalty interest paid

There was no penalty interest paid during financial year 2008-09.



Jaymie Lee, Sophie, Lincoln, Mark, Bonnee, Meg and Kate from Louth Public School undertook Waterwatch activities at the junction of the Warrego and Darling Rivers.

C6. Investment management performance

Western CMA funds invested with the Treasury Corporation – Hourglass Facility had an average interest rate of 5.35 per cent. The total at 30 June 2008 was \$3,306,636.

C7. Credit card certification

Subject to meeting Department of Commerce requirements, eligible staff members are issued with corporate cards to facilitate travel, accommodation and limited purchases. The Western CMA has three corporate credit cards.

The Western CMA complies with DECCW's corporate card policies, which represent best practice in accordance with Treasury and the Auditor General's guidelines. The Corporate Card Guidelines/Procedures satisfy the

requirements of the Revised Treasurer's Directions TD 205.01-205.08 and are based on the NSW Treasury Review of Credit Card Use Best Practice Guide (TPP 99-2). Corporate card expenditures are monitored for compliance with guidelines on a transaction basis and usage was considered to comply with best practice guidelines.

The Western CMA incurred no late payment fees as a result of corporate card usage.

C8. Budget forecast 2009-10

Recurrent funds have been approved for 2009-10 by NSW Treasury, with the total recurrent funds being equal to \$2,550,000. Current program funding is according to the 2008/09-2011/12 Investment Program.

C9. Risk management

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

The Department of Commerce, through Service First, organised insurance cover to the CMAs during the reporting period. This involved CMAs participating 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.

An external risk management auditor was commissioned to conduct reviews of all CMAs in August 2005. A generic risk profile has been considered by the Western CMA and plans are in place to develop a Western CMA Risk Management Strategy during this reporting year.

C10. Disclosure of controlled entities

Not applicable.

C11. Waste

The Western CMA has implemented the Government's Waste Reduction and Purchasing Policy (WRAPP) including the following measures taken to:

- (a) Reduce generation of waste, by:
 - encouraging staff to use electronic, rather than printed, documents where appropriate, thereby reducing paper and toner cartridge waste, in particular extensive use of email and web-based provision of information
 - setting 'two-sided' as the default for all printed documents
 - accurately estimating print-run requirements in document production
 - displaying signage reminding staff to conserve water and electricity in appropriate locations, such as bathrooms and kitchens
 - encouraging 'car-pooling' for transport to events, thereby reducing fuel use and wear and tear on vehicles.

- (b) Recover resources, through the recycling of toner cartridges rather than their replacement

- (c) Use recycled material, by:

- encouraging staff to reuse single-sided paper as drafts, notebooks, etc.
- supplying individual recycling bins for paper recycling to all staff members
- delivering shredded newspapers to local veterinary surgeries
- supply recycling bins in office kitchens/tea-rooms to encourage recycling of containers, such as glass bottles, aluminium cans, PET, etc.

C12. Government energy management performance

The Western CMA has adopted the Energy Management Policy and Practices of DECCW. The Western CMA considers reducing greenhouse gas emissions a priority by choosing energy efficient infrastructure and assets where possible and promoting energy conservation among staff and stakeholders.

C13. Electronic service delivery

The Western CMA provides information electronically where possible.

The Western CMA internet site is maintained regularly as is the Western CMA intranet site.

APPENDIX D: Promotion

D1. Major activities

Annual Life and Light in the Western Catchment Photographic Competition

The 2008 Annual Life and Light in the Western Catchment Photographic Competition attracted 259 entries. A winner, runner-up and two highly commended photographs were selected in each of the four categories: Open Colour, Open Black & White, Secondary Student and Primary Student. The winning entries were displayed at many agricultural shows, field days and in public galleries during the year.

Western Catchment Landcare Forum

The Barrier Area Rangecare Group and the Western CMA hosted the Western Catchment Landcare Forum in White Cliffs in early August 2008. The two-day event attracted 100 people from across the Catchment.

Australian Rangeland Society Conference

The Western CMA sponsored two landholders to attend the Australian Rangeland Society Conference in Charters Towers in September 2008. Frank Brown and Lachlan Sullivan joined Western CMA staff on a four-day journey which included a number of visits to rangeland

properties where innovative land management techniques are being undertaken.

XXI International Grassland Congress/VII International Rangeland Congress

Daryl Green attended the combined congress held in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia, China and presented a poster paper on the Western CMA's Enterprise Based Conservation program. Board member Tony Thompson also attended the combined congress as an invited speaker, presenting a paper on Precision Agriculture in the Rangelands.

Approximately 100 people attended the Western Catchment Landcare Forum in White Cliffs. Western CMA staff member, Chris Higgins, conducts a soil experiment as part of a field trip.





The Mann family of Djioe Station undertook water-spreading to improve the condition of their land as part of the Western CMA's rangeland rehabilitation program. The program provides advice, design information and access to specialised equipment for scald reclamation, gully stabilisation and the rehabilitation of perennial pastures.

Reports

- Western CMA Annual Report 2007-2008
- Western CMA Annual Achievements Report 2007-2008
- Riparian Zone Management: Barwon-Darling
- Warrego Scoping Study: Summary
- Warrego Scoping Study: Final Report
- Riparian Zone Management: Intersecting Streams
- Lower-Balonne Scoping Study: Summary
- Lower-Balonne Scoping Study Consultants Report: Hydrology
- Lower-Balonne Scoping Study Consultants Report: Environmental
- Lower-Balonne Scoping Study Consultants Report: Socio-Economic

Fact sheets

- Management burning planning guide
- Burning to rehabilitate native pastures on 'Norma Vale'
- Chaining and burning to rehabilitate native pastures on 'Mirrabooka'
- Primefacts: Management burning of invasive native scrub: techniques (developed with NSW DPI)
- Primefacts: Management burning of invasive native scrub: principles (developed with NSW DPI)
- Managing native vegetation on rural residential land in Cobar
- Rehabilitating native groundcover in the Western Catchment
- Conservation farming
- Soil management: structure
- Soil management: fertility
- Cropping management

Other promotional materials

- Incentive signs for landholders
- Framed enlargements of the winning sixteen photographs from our annual photographic competition
- DVD: Water Down Under: The Great Artesian Basin Story (Western CMA contribution)

D3. Community events

The Western CMA facilitated a number of forums, public meetings or training courses during the 2008-09 year. In addition, the Western CMA participated in 21 public events. In total, natural resource management information was provided to approximately 1,400 people.

Events facilitated

- Tree-planting and Waterwatch Days, Bourke and Brewarrina

- Western Catchment Landcare Forum, White Cliffs
- World Wetland Day at Old Brewarrina Mission
- Drought funding workshops
- Holistic management courses
- Community meetings about Caring for our Country funding

Events attended

- 2008 National Bestprac Forum
- Australian Rangeland Society Conference
- Bourke, Brewarrina, Cobar, and Walgett Agricultural Shows
- Broken Hill Schools Expo
- Cobar Public School Fete
- Cobar Street Christmas Party
- Gilgunnia Landcare Field Day
- Goat and Total Grazing Pressure workshop, Nymagee
- Hungerford Field Day
- Invasive Native Scrub Workshop, Mt Hope
- Local Field Naturalists Club meeting, Broken Hill
- NAIDOC Week celebrations, Broken Hill
- National Prickle Bush Workshop, Broken Hill
- Rural Skills Day, Walgett
- School visit – Koinonia Christian Academy
- School visit – St Patrick's, Brewarrina
- St Joseph's Primary Fete, Walgett
- Stipa Field Day, Cobar

D4. Corporate communication

New staff were supplied with name badges, business cards and uniforms to wear at public events.

Both the Western CMA website and intranet are updated regularly and information is provided electronically wherever practical.



This page: "On the road to change" by Jo Coleman. Winner of the Open Black and White section of the 2008 Life and Light in the Western Catchment photographic competition.

Back cover: "Life line" by Andrew Barnes, Bourke. Winner of the Open Colour section of the 2008 Life and Light in the Western Catchment photographic competition.

