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## **Central West CMA sets targets for 2009-10 and is ready to fire**

The Central West Catchment Management Authority (CMA) announced its 2009-2010 commitments to natural resource management following the NSW State Budget.

NSW Government funding for the Central West CMA will contribute \$5.26 million towards native vegetation, invasive species, riverine ecosystems, wetlands, soil condition, land capability, economic sustainability, and capacity. The investment includes \$1.7 million under the Catchment Action NSW program, a 50% increase from 2008-2009.

Some of the projects that will result from NSW Government funding include:

- delivering over 2,000 on-ground incentives to assist landholders and partner organisations;
- carrying out education and awareness raising programs to build community capacity and increase participation in Natural Resource Management (NRM); and
- building key partnerships and networks with NRM groups, Aboriginal communities and Local Government.

Chairman of the Central West CMA, Mr Tom Gavel says that the Central West CMA has a strong record of achievement and looks forward to delivering sound NRM outcomes again in 2009-2010.

“Over the last five years we have worked hard to build capacity to deliver projects in partnership with the community across the Central West area,” said Tom.

“People in the Central West have invested a lot of trust in us to deliver programs and projects that will help them to make a real difference on their farms and in their communities. We will strive to meet those expectations over the coming twelve months.

“With clear goals and strong community support, we will achieve our ten year Catchment Action Plan targets and remain committed to making a difference in the Central West.”

In total, the Central West CMA will invest more than \$8 million in 2009-2010 to manage natural resources for the benefit of communities and the environment.

Funding for this work has been provided from the NSW Government and the Commonwealth Government's Caring for our Country initiative.

The community has supported this investment with cash and in-kind contributions totalling more than \$120 million.

The Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Carmel Tebbutt, said more than \$23 million had been provided to continue the Catchment Action NSW program to support CMAs across the State.

This brings the total commitment by the NSW Government in 2009-10 to the 13 Catchment Management Authorities in NSW to over \$64 million.

"CMAs are frontline agencies, working with local communities to deliver the State-wide natural resource management targets at a regional level," Ms Tebbutt said.

"More than \$40 million will be provided to the CMAs for staffing, operational costs, and running ongoing projects. The \$23 million will be directed to additional on-ground works across NSW.

"This includes funding works to rehabilitate waterways, undertake re-vegetation works, protect threatened species and develop sustainable farming techniques, as well as many other projects.

"NSW has a robust regional delivery model for natural resource management with CMAs out there working closely with landholders, indigenous groups, industry, local government and other sectors of the community."

Central West CMA targets for 2009-2010 are summarised on the following page.

**Captions:** Picture 276 - working with the community. Picture 357 – on-ground achievements

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## Summary of Central West CMA 2009-10 targets by natural resource theme

### Community theme

Target	Natural resource benefit
One partnership and one project developed with Aboriginal communities	Developing partnerships within the Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal communities
40 land managers with improved NRM	Practical improvement in natural resources, contributing to social and economic wellbeing.

### Land theme

Target	Natural resource benefit
40 farmers using improved soil management methods (2000 ha)	Improved soil organic carbon, soil health and soil structure.
40 landholders educated on land capability and land capability mapped within property management plans	Productive systems managed within soil capability, leading to an improvement in soil condition

### Biodiversity theme

Target	Natural resource benefit
20 farmers adopting vegetation management biodiversity protections practices (1000 ha)	An overall improvement that will benefit native fauna and biodiversity and provide opportunities for carbon sequestration
200 ha of high conservation value terrestrial habitat improved and 4 km of aquatic habitat improved	Rehabilitate habitat types to improve opportunities for native species to achieve sustainable populations
450 ha of native habitat managed to reduce critical threats	Viable numbers of threatened species and vegetation communities, focussing on White box, Yellow box and Blakely's redgum endangered ecological communities
Impact of weeds of national significance reduced over 72,000 ha and rabbit populations suppressed over 42,000 ha	Rehabilitated native vegetation and habitat, and reduce threats to biodiversity.

### Water theme

Target	Natural resource benefit
riverine condition improved over 4km	Conditions favourable for proliferation of native fish, macroinvertebrates and native aquatic flora.
All groundwater dependent ecosystems identified within developed Property Vegetation Plans	Support rehabilitation of groundwater dependent ecosystems
Invasive species threats addressed affecting 150 ha of Ramsar wetlands	Maintain and improve health of priority wetlands that provide natural water quality filters and habitat for a unique range of flora and fauna.

### ENDS

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