



What support can Central West CMA staff offer the Community?

The Central West Catchment Management Authority (CMA) is strongly committed to supporting landholders and communities in the Central West Catchment.

In particular, the Central West CMA has skilled staff available to assist individuals and groups to engage in Natural Resource Management (NRM) and progress environmental outcomes.

Answers to some Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Do we have a local person/contact?

Our Natural Resource Officers (NROs) are your local Central West CMA contacts. They are located in each of our district offices. These being located in Wellington (Head Office), Bathurst, Dubbo, Gilgandra, Mudgee, Nyngan, Orange and Trangie.

Further information on Central West CMA offices and staff can be found on the Central West CMA website: www.cw.cma.nsw.gov.au/cwcma_staff.htm

The NRO's roles include:

- encouraging and coordinating capacity building to raise the community's skill, motivation and general awareness of catchment issues
- promoting community involvement in planning
- providing natural resource management information and advice to land managers
- assisting individuals and groups to adopt best practice methods
- developing partnerships with the community.

All Central West CMA staff are available to take inquiries from individual community members and landholders, group representatives and other stakeholders. The Central West CMA NROs are locally based and have knowledge and skills pertaining to local issues.

2. Will Central West CMA staff attend our Community Group meetings?

Yes. Central West CMA staff will attend your community meetings upon request and where you require them to provide specific information. Central West CMA staff would appreciate at least two weeks notice to attend. If you have meetings regularly and request a Central West CMA staff member to attend each meeting, they will whenever they can.

However, if we can't make it we will forward on any updates or pertinent information so that it can be presented at your meeting. How often our staff attend meetings is left to their discretion. Sometimes meetings are late at night and a long way from home, so to assist us getting staff home safely you could ask a staff member to speak at the beginning of the agenda or possibly hold afternoon or morning meetings.

3. Can the Central West CMA help organise a field day?

Staff from the Central West CMA currently coordinate training and extension activities such as field days, workshops, bus trips and education days that are relevant to natural resource management in the Central West Catchment.

4. How can I find out about funding opportunities?

Staff will direct community groups, stakeholders, other interested parties and individuals towards potential funding, sponsorship or project opportunities through our website, newspaper articles, radio and newsletters. Where appropriate the Central West CMA may hold public information sessions for large scale funding opportunities, including Central West CMA Incentives. You can also phone or visit your local office to speak directly to a staff member.

5. Will Central West CMA staff assist me to plan and develop projects for funding?

Of course! Central West CMA staff would appreciate at least two weeks notice to assist community groups and individuals to develop projects for funding from the Central West CMA, Envirofund, National Landcare Program, Environmental Trust, etc. Staff can assist groups and individuals to identify issues, and provide information about funding opportunities.

6. Can Central West CMA staff help compile my funding application?

Unfortunately Central West CMA staff are not available to write applications on your behalf, but staff can review and offer advice on how to improve your funding application.

7. Will someone from the Central West CMA act as a referee for my project application?

Central West CMA staff would appreciate at least two weeks notice to assist you. If you are seeking a technical referee, some staff are skilled in various technical aspects of environmental projects. However Central West CMA staff can act only as technical referees for projects which are assessed externally to the Central West CMA (eg. Envirofund).

8. Can I get a 'letter of support' for my funding proposal from the Central West CMA?

The Central West CMA will support projects which align with the objectives and targets set in the Central West Catchment Action Plan. Central West CMA staff would appreciate at least two weeks notice to assist you with your 'letters of support' for funding proposal's external to the Central West CMA process (eg. Envirofund).

9. Can the Central West CMA administer our individual or group Projects?

The Central West CMA cannot administer individual or group projects in relation to disseminating funds, reporting or organising the logistics to implement projects (eg. ordering materials and arranging contractors). However if you or your group are having difficulty in administering existing projects, let the Central West CMA know. We may be able to assist in some way. For the benefit of our whole Catchment, the Central West CMA wants every project in the Central West to be the best it can be and achieve the outcomes intended.

10. Does the Central West CMA provide technical advice?

All staff can provide a level of extension advice regarding natural resource management issues within the Central West Catchment. However, CMA staff would appreciate at least two weeks notice to assist you with specialist technical advice as only some staff within the Central West CMA can provide technical advice to landholders on more specific issues (eg. stabilising streambanks). To determine the viability of a project these staff can assist landholders with concept design. Detailed works design and costings can then be obtained through private contractors (eg. design for environmental earthworks or stock water supply).

11. How can I get assistance with Property/Farm Planning?

The Central West CMA offers an incentive to attend a Farm Planning course run through an accredited provider. These can be for an individual landholder or a group of landholders. Minimum standards apply. Please contact your local Central West CMA office for further information.