

How does the Central West CMA Identify its Important Natural Assets?

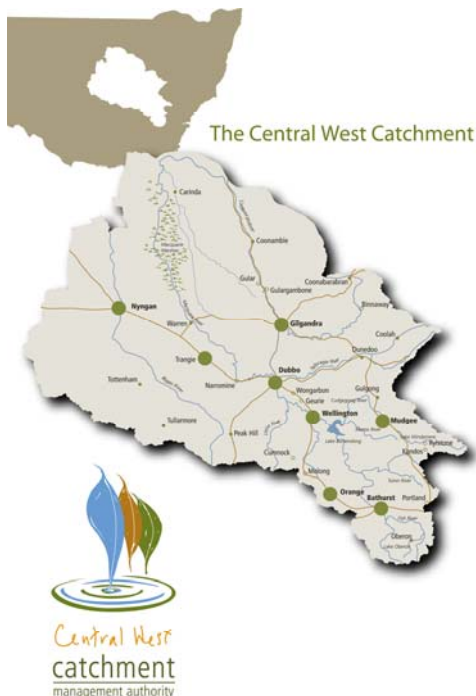
Fact Sheet 1



About the Central West CMA

The Central West Catchment Management Authority is the key-coordinating agency for natural resource planning and management in the central west region. We perform this role in partnership with the community, State Government agencies, local government, community committees and other service providers on behalf of the New South Wales Government.

The CW CMA is committed to engaging the community in the key natural resource management issues facing the catchment.



Prioritising What is Important

The Central West CMA has a Catchment Action Plan (CAP) which sets out goals for the condition of our land, water and biodiversity. The CAP also recognises the important contribution of the catchment community in achieving these goals. The CAP was formally endorsed by the Minister for Natural Resources in 2007. The CAP is due for a review. The Central West CMA will be using a process known as INFFER to inform the CAP review.

What is INFFER?

INFFER stands for: Investment Framework For Environmental Resources. It is a tool for planning and prioritising the key natural resources in the catchment.

It focuses on achieving outcomes cost effectively. It will assist the CMA to identify, protect or enhance specific natural resource assets. Limited funds exist to protect and improve the region's environment, so we need to get the best results with the funding available and INFFER can help us achieve this.

What's Next?

The first part of this process is to find out what the regional community values in their local environment, and why these features are important. Twelve community meetings will be held from October-November 2009 to work with the community in identifying the region's most valued environmental places and things. The workshop locations are: Nyngan, Coonamble, Warren, Trangie, Coonabarabran, Gilgandra, Dubbo, Peak Hill, Wellington, Mudgee, Orange and Bathurst. (Please see Fact Sheet 2 for further details).

Following these community meetings, the Central West CMA will establish an inventory of environmental assets prioritised for protection. This does not mean that natural resource management works will immediately be undertaken on these assets; rather, the list will be a reference for project development and investment into the future. By including them on the list, various funding sources may be accessed over the coming years.

Information from the community will be combined with the best available science and government policies and priorities to review the CAP.

For further information, contact:

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Vibrant communities ... healthy landscapes