

# Biodiversity

## REPORT CARD INFORMATION SHEET

Biodiversity means variety of life and is one of the seven Natural Resource Management (NRM) themes of the Central West Catchment Management Authority (Central West CMA).

Our Catchment Action Plan (CAP) identifies four biodiversity management targets to be met by 2016. This information sheet gives a summary of what biodiversity is and work done in this area through the Central West CMA.

### Biodiversity in the Central West Catchment

Biodiversity is the variety of all living organisms, including all species, the genes they possess and the ecosystems they form. This variety is vital in supporting life and provides all of our food and many industrial products and medicines.

Biodiversity also ensures clean air, clean water and fertile soils; provides opportunities for recreation, tourism, scientific research and education; and is a source of cultural identity for many Australians (NSW Biodiversity Strategy NPWS 1999).

There are a number of processes that threaten – or could threaten – the survival or evolutionary development of species, populations or ecological communities (i.e. biodiversity). These include pest animals, weeds, diseases, habitat loss or change, climate change, alterations to the natural flow of watercourses and new bushfire patterns.

The Central West CMA is carrying out a range of work to:

- ensure that the variety of species and ecosystems (water and land-based) is maintained
- manage High Conservation Value habitats and carry out priority management actions to prevent further decline and help recover threatened communities and populations
- develop and implement integrated pest animal control programs.

Of note in the Central West Catchment are the internationally recognised Macquarie Marshes. This extensive wetland system is

one of the most biodiverse habitat types and is one of the largest semi-permanent wetlands in south-eastern Australia. It covers an area of 220,000 hectares, starting in the south at Marebone Weir (50kms north of Warren) and extending 100km to the north until all the channels form near Carinda.



### BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT *in action*

A partnership between the Cabonne Shire Council and the Central West CMA has seen willow trees removed along Molong River and re-introduced as debris (re-snagging) to improve local water quality and aquaculture health.

The re-snagging project is being run by the Cabonne Shire Council and is funded through the Central West CMA's biodiversity incentives program.

This work will ultimately improve the health of the river, with benefits such as providing shade and increasing the range of habitats for fish, waterbugs and platypus.

Fish also make use of the logs to produce young and create a nursery environment. Additional debris in the river can also increase in the level of oxygen in the water.

Local students and other volunteers also worked with the Cabonne Shire Council and Central West CMA to undertake a macroinvertebrate survey of the river.

This survey involved catching and identifying water bugs to give an indicator of the health of the river and provide a benchmark for improvements in aquaculture health.



## Work done against our 2016 CAP targets

The following diagram illustrates our progress against the four Biodiversity CAP Management Targets as at June 2007.  
(Refer to key below)

### [ MTB1 ]

10,000ha of high conservation value habitat types managed for biodiversity  
**Biodiversity incentives program developed**

### [ MTB2 ]

10 projects to maintain viable priority species, populations or communities  
**No work done yet**

### [ MTB3 ]

Maintain or enhance instream habitat features along 100km of streams  
**37km**

### [ MTB4 ]

Implement 10 projects identified in integrated pest animal management plans  
**No work done yet**

To find out more about our Biodiversity Program and how you can be involved contact the Central West CMA Biodiversity Team

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## Definitions

<b>Conservation</b>	is the protection, maintenance, management, sustainable use, restoration and enhancement of the natural environment.
<b>Ecosystem</b>	refers to a dynamic complex of plant, animal, fungal and microorganism communities and the associated non-living environment interacting as an ecological unit.
<b>Ecosystem diversity</b>	relates to the variety of habitats, biotic communities and ecological processes, as well as the diversity present within ecosystems in terms of habitat differences and ecological processes.
<b>Habitat</b>	is the place or type of site in which an organism naturally occurs.
<b>High conservation value</b>	habitat types are those seen as threatened due to pressure through clearing and land use.
<b>Managed primarily for biodiversity</b>	means that land use and land management decisions are made on the basis that the primary goal is the maintenance of the variety of life-forms, plants, animals and micro-organisms of the catchment and the ecosystems that support them.
<b>Priority action statements</b>	identify species, populations or communities in accordance with the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act (1995).
<b>Recovery action plans</b>	set out research and management actions necessary to stop the decline of listed threatened species or threatened ecological communities and support their recovery.
<b>Riparian</b>	in its simplest sense refers to the riverbank area. In an ecological sense it is the zone that is directly influenced by a river or creek and in turn, directly influences the water body. Riparian vegetation in this sense includes aquatic and terrestrial vegetation that provides habitat for native plants and animals.
<b>Species</b>	is a group of organisms capable of interbreeding freely with each other but not with members of other species.
<b>Threatened</b>	means a species or community that is vulnerable, endangered or presumed extinct.
<b>Threat abatement plans</b>	provide for the research, management and any other actions necessary to reduce the impact of threatening processes on species or ecological community of concern.

### [ KEY ]



No work done specifically in this area yet



Programs in development



Programs implemented and contributing towards 2016 targets



Programs implemented and on track to meet 2016 targets

vibrant communities ... healthy landscapes

