



Cultural Heritage

REPORT CARD INFORMATION SHEET

Central West NSW is rich with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage that needs to be protected, secured and enhanced to maintain a link with the traditions and values of past generations. For this reason, Cultural Heritage is one of the seven Natural Resource Management (NRM) themes of the Central West Catchment Management Authority (CMA).

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

Cultural Heritage in the Central West Catchment

In order to move into the future, society needs to acknowledge and learn from the past. Through maintaining a link with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage in our Catchment we can do this and develop as a community.

Aboriginal cultural heritage features and values of the landscape can include physical sites such as carved and scarred trees; ochre quarries; rock art; stone artefacts; occupation sites and grinding grooves. However, cultural heritage features may also be less observable and tangible such as places of spiritual significance or abundance of particular bush medicine.

The Central West CMA is undertaking work under the CAP to ensure these and other cultural heritage aspects are preserved for future generations.

This work has a number of elements, namely:

- protecting the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal culturally significant aspects of the landscape
- negotiating Aboriginal people's access to culturally significant sites, while recognising the legitimate rights of landholders
- integrating Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage into Property Management Plans.

Appropriate methods of managing and preserving cultural heritage are best determined by the traditional owners or cultural heritage specialists and may range from maintenance, restoration, removal or interpretation of the heritage sites/values that may exist on the property.



CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

in action

An example of work happening under the Cultural Heritage Program is native fibre workshops held by the Central West CMA.

The workshops preserve and revitalise the Aboriginal cultural practice of weaving. They teach the wider community how to create items such as baskets and about the native fibres used for weaving, such as Spiny Sedge (*Cyperus gymnocaulos* p 161: Plants of Western NSW).

Weaving native fibres is a traditional practice of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Australia, including the various nation groups living in the Central West Catchment area.

As part of this program, members of the Aboriginal community share their intergenerational knowledge with the wider community. Through the workshops and information sharing, the practices and knowledge of this craft are preserved.

The Central West CMA has also recently launched its Cultural Heritage Incentives program, which provides incentives to preserve and protect culturally significant sites across Central West NSW. To find out more about our cultural heritage incentives, visit the Central West CMA web site: www.cw.cma.nsw.gov.au.



Work done against our 2016 CAP targets

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

[MTCH1]

Protection of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal culturally significant aspects of the landscape

Undertaking cultural mapping project to highlight cultural aspects of the landscape.

Cultural Incentives Program developed to protect culturally significant aspects of the landscape.

[MTCH2]

Negotiated Indigenous access to culturally significant lands, while recognising legitimate rights of landholders

Memorandum of Understanding, Aboriginal community protocols and Land Access Agreement templates have been developed to be used between Aboriginal groups and landholders for access to and understanding of traditional lands and cultural practices where aspects of the landscape have a significant cultural value to the Aboriginal community and/or significant Cultural values (including sites).

[MTCH3]

All integrated property management plans address Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage resources and areas

Cultural and Heritage module added to Property Management Plans

Definitions

Carved trees	are trees with a section of the bark removed and a carving made of the exposed wood to mark burial and ceremonial sites, as well as clan groups.
Scarred trees	are trees from which a section of the bark or wood has been removed to make canoes; shields; containers; and other utensils and weapons.
Ochre quarries	were a source of ochre, which was used in all ceremonies and each colour had its own value and purpose. White ochre could also be prepared as a medicine. Hence these sites are important to Aboriginal people for social, spiritual, historical and commemorative reasons.
Occupation sites	are places where evidence exists of prior Aboriginal occupation. Three most common types found are shell middens, rock shelters and open camp sites.
Artefacts	are anything made or modified by people. Stone artefacts include both the finished product (e.g. an axe head) and the debris left behind.

[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

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

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