

## REPORT CARD INFORMATION SHEET

Water is a common chemical substance that is essential to all known forms of life. It 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 seven water management targets to be met by 2016. This information sheet gives a summary of what water management is and work done in this area through the Central West CMA.

### Water in the Central West Catchment

Major catchment systems in Central West NSW include the Macquarie, Castlereagh, Cudgegong and Bogan. The Central West's major storage areas are Burrendong and Windamere Dams.

Within this area are the internationally protected Macquarie Marshes, one of the largest semi-permanent wetlands in south-eastern Australia. The Marshes are one of the most important sites in NSW for bird breeding and also contain a large River Red Gum population. There are eight other nationally recognised wetlands in the region.

Work done under the Central West CMA's Water Program sets out to improve our water resources through a number of ways.

Improving stability of stream beds and banks will reduce sedimentation, turbidity and nutrient loading – leading to greater water quality and habitat values.

The Central West CMA's Water Program also sets out to improve aquatic habitats through managing identified 'active' gully systems that transfer sediment and nutrients to surface water systems. Likewise the CMA aims to reduce the transfer of nutrients from the broader landscape to riparian and aquatic environments.

Work is also carried out under the Water Program to encourage native riparian vegetation which acts as a buffer strip, preventing pollutants moving from land to surface waters.



An example of work happening under the Water theme is incentive funding on the property "Goonamurrah", north of Bathurst. Central West CMA incentive funding gave the landholder the opportunity to carry out a valuable environmental project to improve water quality in his region.

This water quality control project was done to manage an eroded gully approximately 1200m long and up to seven metres deep.

It involved work to control soil erosion, riparian fencing and planting native shrubs. The Department of Lands Soil Conservation Services division was contracted to construct specialised soil conservation works which were a keystone to the project.

Through investing in this project, a number of NRM outcomes will be achieved:

- a reduction in erosion and soil movement downstream which will improve water quality
- enhancement/ protection of native vegetation along 1200m of gully which will improve vegetation and biodiversity.

The landholder has always wanted to do something about this issue, but never had the financial means.

## Work done against our 2016 CAP targets

The following diagram illustrates our progress against the seven Water CAP Management Targets as at June 2007.

(Refer to key below)

### [ MTW1 ]

Education program on chemicals and other hazardous substances

**No work done yet**

### [ MTW2 ]

Control sediment migration and reduce nutrient input in 600km of watercourses

**282km**

### [ MTW3 ]

Reduce impact of point source pollution in rivers

**Participation in developing point-source pollution reduction strategy**

### [ MTW4 ]

Maintain and improve health of wetlands in catchment

**60km of willows being removed upstream of Marebone Weir**

### [ MTW5 ]

Water extractions managed in line with Water Sharing Plans

**Preliminary planning for macro water sharing plan**

### [ MTW6 ]

Remove five aquatic barriers and reduce thermal pollution to improve river habitat

**Priorities considered**

### [ MTW7 ]

Recover 30,000ML water savings to improve environment outcomes

**2500ML**

## Definitions

<b>Aquatic barriers</b>	are instream structures that cause difficulties for native fish to swim upstream to breed. An example of such a barrier would be weir structures without suitable fish passage design.
<b>Hazardous chemicals</b>	include pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, fertilisers and industrial wastes.
<b>'Internationally recognised'</b>	mainly relates to the international agreements such as the Ramsar Convention, under which the Macquarie Marshes are listed.
<b>Nationally listed wetlands</b>	are listed under the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia.
<b>Suspended sediment</b>	is undissolved particles remaining in solution.
<b>Thermal pollution</b>	is cold water pollution from releasing dam water into waterways which can impede successful breeding of native fish.
<b>Water extraction</b>	refers to water taken from river or groundwater systems for a range of uses such as towns, domestic, stock watering and irrigation.
<b>Water savings</b>	is the amount of water saved within an operation, once water efficient systems and processes are applied.
<b>Water sharing plans</b>	are plans designed to establish rules for sharing water between environmental needs of the river or groundwater system and a range of extractive uses such as towns, domestic, stock watering and irrigation needs.
<b>Wetland health</b>	refers to the species and structural diversity; quality; extent; richness; and condition of the wetlands. Some of these parameters, such as extent, may fluctuate over time according to influences such as climate.

## [ 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 Water Program and how you can be involved contact the Central West CMA Water Team

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