

MEDIA RELEASE



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\$200,000 AVAILABLE FOR WESTERN CATCHMENT LANDCARERS

\$200,000 is now available for Landcarers in the Western Catchment wanting to undertake works, training or awareness raising activities to improve nature resource management.

Landcare Groups or members of those groups are eligible to apply for funding through the Western National Landcare Program.

The latest funding round was launched at the Western Catchment Landcare Forum in Cobar on September 1.

Western Community Landcare Coordinator, Pip Stalley, says people have until September 28 to apply.

"People can apply for up to \$20,000, which is offered on a dollar for dollar basis. Applicants are required to match the funding either in cash or in-kind. Projects need to be completed by the end of April 2008," Ms Stalley said.

Funds are available for people wanting to implement on-ground works or training to improve the natural resources of their area, such as conservation farming, groundcover management, natural resource management including invasive native scrub control, pest management and riparian and water quality improvements.

As well as traditional training courses, funds are available for investigations, trials and demonstration of new techniques and awareness raising activities, such as field days, to promote new ideas or assist others to build skills in sustainable land management.

"The Western Catchment Landcare Forum held last weekend was very successful and generated a great deal of enthusiasm," Ms Stalley said.

"One of the major messages from participants was that to remain in agriculture, they must change with the times, try new ideas and think outside the circle.

"This funding allows people to take their enthusiasm and ideas and transform them into something concrete with real benefits for Western people and the environment," she said.

Guidelines and application forms are available now by calling 1800 032 101 or visiting www.western.cma.nsw.gov.au

It is strongly recommended that people contact their local Western CMA office for assistance in preparing and submitting their project proposal.

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