

12 September 2007

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS ACHIEVEMENTS OF WESTERN PEOPLE

Land managers in Western NSW feature prominently in the Western Catchment Management Authority's (CMA) 2006-2007 Annual Achievements Report, which will be officially launched at the Murray Darling Association Conference in Bourke this week.

General Manager of the Western CMA, Mr Daryl Green, says the Annual Achievements Report is a plain English guide to the works being undertaken to improve natural resource management in the Catchment.

"The Western CMA has worked with local people to invest \$8.3 million during the 2006-2007 financial year. \$2.02 million was allocated through the 2006 incentive program with a further \$5.3 million committed in 2007," Mr Green said.

"We help the local community to improve natural resources in the Western Catchment. The Western CMA is funded by the NSW and Federal Governments who have made a combined \$23 million commitment to the Western Catchment over a four year period.

"This report provides an overview of the works being undertaken to improve our land, vegetation, rivers, groundwater and biodiversity," Mr Green said.

Achievements include:

- Land managers using fencing, trap yards, saltbush plantings and other strategies to encourage native pasture on a total of 1,725km², which is the roughly the same area as the Paroo-Darling National Park.
- 59 off-river watering points installed to stop stock accessing waterways and 170km of waterway has been fenced: equivalent to the distance by road between Mungindi and Walgett or between Sydney and Newcastle.
- Protection of 6,635 hectares of wetlands.
- Works to control feral goats, pigs and rabbits is being undertaken on an area of 25,000km², which is double the size of all National Parks, Nature Reserves, Historic Sites and Aboriginal Areas in the Western Division combined.

As well as giving a summary of works undertaken to achieve the management targets for the Catchment, there is a case study for each of the targets, which focuses on one person or group and the environmental benefits of their on-ground works.

People featured in the report include the members of the Hudson Pear Taskforce, which is spraying infestations of the noxious weed over 60,000 hectares around **Lightning Ridge** and undertaking a public awareness campaign. The efforts of Rex Skuthorpe and the Bodha Aboriginal Pastoral Company to rehabilitate scaled country on Willoring Station near **Lightning Ridge** are also highlighted.



MEDIA RELEASE



Mr Mac George and his family of Tarrion Station near **Brewarrina** are featured as they have fenced 8km of the Tarrion Creek and installed five off-river watering points. The Creek is now entirely fenced and stock completely excluded, which protects 460ha of riverbank vegetation and will result in improved soil and water health.

Landholders in the **Broken Hill** area who undertook Landscape Function Analysis in order to improve their land management skills are also featured. As a result of the training, they are now better able to assess soil and land health and prioritise future actions. **Milparinka** area resident and Russel Harland Memorial Scholarship recipient, Jenny Sandow, is also included in the report.

The Aboriginal Reference Advisory Group, which represents Aboriginal people throughout the Catchment is featured and **Wilcannia** representatives, Alma Bates-Hannah and Bill Riley appear as part of a montage of photographs on the front page.

Cobar students learning from Western CMA staffer and Cobar resident, Leah Arnold, are also included in the report. The Western CMA attended 19 public events in the 2006-2007 year, providing natural resource management information to more than 1,000 people.

Copies of the Annual Achievements Report will be mailed to all people on the Western CMA's mailing list and will be available at all Western CMA offices, on the website at www.western.cma.nsw.gov.au or by ringing 1800 101 032.

ENDS

For further information:

Maree Barnes, PR and Media Officer, Western CMA. Ph: 02 6883 3058/0427 256814

Daryl Green, General Manager, Western CMA. Ph: 0427 952 033.

Captions:

Daryl_Green_Report: Daryl Green, General Manager of the Western CMA with the Annual Achievements Report.

LFA_Group: Barrier Range landholders learn Landscape Function Analysis with David Tongway

Jenny Sandow: Russel Harland Memorial Scholarship recipient, Jenny Sandow

Rex Skuthorpe: Rex Skuthorpe of the Bohda Aboriginal Pastoral Company

Davies_Green: Gary Davies of the Gravin-Glengarry Sheepyards Miners' Association and Daryl Green of the Western CMA inspect treated Hudson Pear.

Bates.Hannah_Riley: Aboriginal Reference Advisory Group members, representing the Wilcannia area, Alma Bates-Hannah and Bill Riley.

Leah_Cobar: Western CMA staffer, Leah Arnold, addresses Cobar students.

