

13 March 2008

FUNDING FOR WESTERN CATCHMENT LAND MANAGERS

Applications are now being called for Western Catchment land managers wanting to undertake on-ground works or training to improve the natural resources of their property or local area, General Manager of the Western Catchment Management Authority (CMA), Mr Daryl Green said today.

The 2008 Incentive Program was officially launched yesterday by Mr Green during a field trip held as part of the Sustainable Grazing Forum in Broken Hill.

The Program provides funds to people wanting to improve the natural resources of their area through conservation farming, grazing management, natural resource improvement including invasive native scrub control and rangeland rehabilitation, animal and plant pest management, riparian and water quality improvements, Environmentally Significant Areas, Enterprise Based Conservation and training.

Applications for the 2008 Incentives Program will be accepted until April 30.

"The Western CMA 2008 Incentive Program continues to build on the work undertaken by local people in the past three years and I encourage anyone who is interested to apply for funding," Mr Green said.

"During the past three years, \$8.43 million was provided to 199 land managers in the Western Catchment, with remarkable results.

"For example, works are being undertaken to improve native pasture on a combined area of 3,445km². A total of 405km of rivers and creeks has been fenced, which will result in improved water quality and the protection of 322km² of riverside vegetation.

"It is very apt that I'm launching the program at the Fowler's Gap Research Station.

"Noel Beadle's exclosure plots, dating back to the 1950s, are tangible examples of long-term natural resource management, which is what the Western CMA is working with local people to achieve.

"We are also within sight of fencing funded by our 2007 Incentive Program.

"This fencing excludes all grazing animals from 750 hectares of saltbush-bluebush plain, which is home to Curly Mallee, a threatened species that is very rarely recorded in NSW. Two of its locations have been protected through our Environmentally Significant Areas program in last year's Incentives Program.

"During the Sustainable Grazing Forum I have heard several people say they want to hand their property on in better condition than when they first started, and the Incentive Program can assist in making that a reality.

"I encourage any local landholder, community groups or member of the public who want to improve on-ground outcomes to apply for this funding," Mr Green said.



MEDIA RELEASE



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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Caption: Western CMA Board Member and White Cliffs resident, Diana Hoffman and Western CMA General Manager, Daryl Green photographed with the threatened species, Curly Mallee, at the launch of the 2008 Incentives Program.

For further information: ON MOBILES ONLY UNTIL NEXT WEEK
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