

13 October 2008

WESTERN CMA BOARD HOLDS OPEN SESSION IN LIGHTNING RIDGE

The Western Catchment Management Authority (CMA) Board will hold its bi-monthly meeting in Lightning Ridge on October 27 and 28, Western CMA Chair Rory Treweeke said today.

"I would like to invite Western Catchment residents to attend an open session to raise any issues for discussion," he said.

Members of the public are invited to join the Board for an open session at 12.00 on Tuesday, October 28 at The Lightning Ridge Bowling Club.

"The Western CMA has been established to ensure the community has a significant say in how natural resources are managed and this is just one avenue of making sure local people are heard," Mr Treweeke said.

"The Western CMA rotates its board meetings around the Catchment to ensure we keep in touch with local issues.

"During the 2007-2008 financial year, the Western CMA has worked with local groups, organisations and individuals and invested \$11.2 million to ensure a healthier catchment in the longer term.

"People in the Lightning Ridge and Walgett area have received funding to undertake on-ground works to improve natural resources in their area through our 2008 Incentives program, which saw \$4.2 million allocated to 92 land managers throughout the Western Catchment.

"The Western CMA has undertaken a range of large-scale projects including working with the Hudson Pear Taskforce to control the weed in an area of over 60,000 hectares in the Lightning Ridge area.

"We have also funded three research projects to assist in determining the current conditions of the rivers and floodplain of the Lower Balonne river system, which encompasses the Narran, Birrie, Bokhara and Culgoa Rivers.

"Our open sessions allow us to hear first-hand whether we're doing our job effectively for local people.

"We will also have information about current funding opportunities for people who have areas of high conservation value on their property.

"We will pay one hundred per cent of costs to manage the areas for conservation for fifteen years. The areas include culturally significant sites, uncommon vegetation types or landscapes, native animal habitat, wetlands and riverine corridors," Mr Treweeke said.

ENDS – For further information, please contact:



MEDIA RELEASE



Maree Barnes, PR and Media Officer on (02) 6883 3058/0427 256814
Rory Treweeke, Chair Western CMA on 02 8629 0301/0428 634204.

Caption: Rory Treweeke, Chair of the Western CMA.

