

14 October 2008

\$400,000 AVAILABLE FOR AREAS OF HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE

The Western Catchment Management Authority (CMA) has \$400,000 available for people willing to manage areas of high conservation value for fifteen years.

Areas of high conservation value are rare or irreplaceable or of particular conservation value and therefore need to be carefully managed.

They include culturally significant sites, uncommon vegetation types or landscapes, including artesian mound springs, native animal habitat, wetlands and riverine corridors.

The deadline for applications is November 14 and works funded through the program need to be completed by the end of May 2009.

Interested people should contact the Western CMA by visiting www.western.cma.nsw.gov.au or ringing freecall 1800 032 101.

Western CMA Project Officer, Erlina Compton, says the program provides financial assistance for people to manage special places on their property.

"Many landholders are already looking after areas of high conservation value on their property and we're keen to assist them financially," Ms Compton said.

"Most people want to hand their property on to future generations in better condition than when they started and we are able to help.

"The Western CMA will pay 100% of infrastructure costs such as fencing and off-river watering points, as well as management costs, including labour, for pest control and maintenance," Ms Compton said.

Examples of projects previously funded include restoration of the Brewarrina Mission Wetland, fencing the Bogan River and The Fowlers Gap Mallee Conservation Area.

The Ngemba Billabong Restoration and Landcare Group received funding to manage the wetland located at the Old Brewarrina Aboriginal Mission. They will fence the billabong, exclude domestic stock and control pest animal and weeds, revegetate with approximately 2,500 native plants and undertake an educational campaign about the wetland's importance.

David and Ellie Compton of Pendiana Station, south of Brewarrina, have received funding to fence their Bogan River frontage, which features Coolibah, Black Box and River Red Gums. It also has a number of culturally significant areas including scar trees and middens. They will erect 12km of fencing and establish alternative off-river watering points.

The Fowlers Gap Research Station, north of Broken Hill, received funding to protect 1,230ha of uncommon vegetation including a very rare Curly Mallee stand. Goats previously used the area for shade and feed, causing damage to the soil and vegetation.



MEDIA RELEASE



The High Conservation Value program is funded by the NSW and Australian Governments as part their commitment to a healthier environment.

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Captions:

- The Western CMA's Blackie Gordon at the Old Brewarrina Mission Wetland
- David Compton of Pendiana Station with the Bogan River area to the fenced
- Western CMA Board Member Diana Hoffman with General Manager Daryl Green and the now protected Curly Mallee stand.

