

30 March 2009

FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR NATURAL RESOURCE TRAINING AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

The Western Catchment Management Authority (CMA) today launched its Training and Community Activities Funding Program.

Chair of the Western CMA, Rory Treweeke, says funds are available for individuals or groups who want to undertake training or community activities to improve the natural resources of their area.

"We have previously offered funding for training through our annual incentives program, however, we recognise that in many cases educational opportunities become available without a great deal of advance notice.

"The Training and Community Activities Funding Program provides four opportunities during the year for people to apply for funding.

"The first deadline will be April 30 but applications will also be accepted in mid-2009, October 2009 and January 2010.

"Training has always been a high priority for the Western CMA as it increases land managers' ability to adopt sustainable practices.

"Since 2005 the Western CMA has supported 27 training courses, which have been attended by 236 people. In addition, nine workshops and four farm field days have been held, attracting 245 participants.

"A range of community activities have been supported including five carp musters, which have attracted over 600 anglers. We have also supported a cultural heritage canoe trip on the Barwon-Darling River for eighteen students from three schools.

"The Training and Community Activities Funding Program will allow us to continue providing support in a way that is more convenient and effective for Western Catchment residents," Mr Treweeke said.

The funding covers course or activity costs and travel expenses and subsidised course material and accommodation costs.

Training that assists land managers to contribute towards the Western CMA's management targets will be funded. Examples of training may include property planning workshops or courses in conservation and land management.

Community activities that result in improved natural resources may also be funded. Examples of community activities include field demonstrations or carp catching competitions, such as the Western CMA sponsored Carp Busting Competition organised by the Louth Fishing Club on Australia Day, which saw 59 people catch 450 carp and learn about river health.

Funding guidelines and an expression of interest form are available at Western CMA offices, by visiting www.western.cma.nsw.gov.au or calling 1800 032 101.



MEDIA RELEASE



ENDS

For further information:

Maree Barnes, Communications Officer, Western CMA. Ph: 02 6883 3058/0427 256814
Rory Treweeke, Chair, Western CMA. Ph: 02 6829 0301.

Captions:

Jackson_Hayes: David Jackson of Billila Station near **Wilcannia** and Bob Hayes of Box Vale Station attended the Western CMA's Sustainable Grazing Forum in 2008.

Taylor_Leigo: Betty and Tom Taylor of "Owen Downs" between **Wanaaring and Tibooburra** with the Western CMA's James Leigo attended the Western CMA's Sustainable Grazing Forum in 2008.

Clarke_Betts: Tas Clarke of Kayrunnera Station and Owen Betts attended the Western Catchment Landcare Forum in **Broken Hill** in 2008.

WED_Cobar: World Environment Day 2008 was celebrated in **Cobar** by Jo Miller and the Western CMA's Heidi Doyle.

Sippel_Gough_McCumstie: Photographed at the Old Man Saltbush Field Day hosted on Willoring Station near **Goodooga** in 2006 - Andrew Sippel of Grazing Management Systems with Peter Gough of "Khyber Downs" Angledool and Bill McCumstie of "Red Plain" Goodooga.

