

6 August 2007

FIRE EXPERT JOINS COBAR OFFICE OF WESTERN CMA

Brian Dohnt has been appointed rangeland ecologist (fire) with the Western Catchment Management Authority's Cobar office.

Brian will work with Western Catchment landholders to record their experiences of using fire to manage invasive native scrub (woody weeds).

He will use the on-ground experiences of local landholders as well as existing scientific knowledge to produce a set of best management principles for control of invasive native scrub by fire.

Brian's project is one of a suite of seven integrated components, which comprise a \$3 million investment into researching effective management of invasive native scrub in the Central-West and Western Catchments.

Brian has been recruited from Tennant Creek in the Northern Territory, where he has been a regional fire control officer for the past three years, working with pastoralists and Aboriginal communities in managing fire in the rangelands.

Prior to that position he worked for 22 years with the Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment.

He and his wife, Carolyn, are no strangers to Western NSW, having spent a number of holidays in the area.

"We've travelled through the region quite a bit and enjoyed our visits to the area, particularly fishing in the Darling River, so when the position came up we were happy to make the move," Mr Dohnt said.

"Although we enjoyed the Northern Territory, we're happy to be closer to our three children and two grandchildren living in Victoria," he said.

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