

# wetlands identified and protected

Aquatic Habitat Management Target: Habitat improvement actions implemented on 20% of identified priority areas of stream, floodplain, wetland and riparian areas by 2016.

## ■Project overview

Following the 'Identification and Protection of Important Primary Wetlands' project, the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is drafting wetland management plans on 11 of the most significant wetlands in the Western Catchment outside of National Parks, as identified in the project.

## ■Benefits:

- Effectively managing wetlands on farms can result in both environmental and production improvements
- Wetlands are important for environmental, cultural, social and economic reasons
- They provide pasture for stock and may be used for cropping and forestry
- They are often culturally significant to Aboriginal people
- Wetlands increase the variety of native plants and animals within the area
- Wetlands may be referred to as 'the kidneys of the landscape'
- They reduce pollution and sediment, filter nutrient run-off and improve water quality
- Wetlands can reduce water flow rates during floods, which prevents soil erosion

## ■Current status at July 2008:

- The Western CMA has funded an officer to undertake the project, under the DPI Wetlands on Farms program.
- "Guidelines for managing wetlands on farms in inland NSW" and Plans of Management for 11 properties are being prepared.



*Brolgas forage for food in a wetland near Bourke.*



## ■Total Project Budget

\$105,000



Australian Government