VISION
“A healthy and productive Murrumbidgee catchment and it’s communities working together – Yindyamarra.”

Yindyamarra from the Wiradjuri language – to be gentle, be polite, honour and respect and do carefully.

Mission
To work with the community to better manage our natural assets and improve the environmental, economic and social outcomes for our catchment.

Our values
· Trust
· Honesty
· Respect
· Loyalty
· Flexibility

Our principles
· Integration
· Accountability
· Transparency
· Learning approach
· Teamwork
· Professionalism
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The Honourable John Robertson, MLC

Minister for Climate Change and the Environment
Level 35, Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place SYDNEY NSW 2000

30 October 2009

Dear Minister

I have great pleasure in submitting the Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority (CMA) annual report for presentation to the News South Wales Parliament for the period 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009.

The year to 30 June 2009 was the fifth year of operation for the Murrumbidgee CMA, and saw the successful delivery of natural resource management projects in partnership with local landholders, councils, community organisations and government departments.

This report has been prepared in accordance with section 17 of the Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003, and the Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Act 1984 and Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Regulation 2000.

Yours sincerely

Lee O’Brien
Chairperson
Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority

Joe Burns
Board Member
Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority
2008-09 has been a year of ongoing success and development for the Murrumbidgee CMA.

We have continued to develop strong partnerships with land managers, Traditional Owners, community groups and other government agencies to protect and improve the management of the natural resources throughout this vast, productive and ecologically diverse catchment. All of our projects are developed to integrate and optimise environmental, social and economic benefits.

I am pleased to present the Murrumbidgee CMA 2008-09 Annual Report. Compiled through extensive consultation with Board Members, senior management, staff and various stakeholders, this report depicts our business and operational outputs and outcomes for the past year.

I am certain that through our many initiatives and partnerships, the Murrumbidgee CMA has, and will continue to, successfully deliver a comprehensive range of natural resource management programs and projects which lead to more resilient environmental, economic and community outcomes in the Murrumbidgee Catchment.

Lee O’Brien
Chairperson
Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority
Since establishment in 2004, the Murrumbidgee CMA has grown and developed into a leading natural resource management organisation, promoting resilient landscapes.

In just a short period of time, the Murrumbidgee CMA has achieved a remarkable level of success, having partnered with over 1000 rural landholders and protected more than half a million hectares of land.

Looking ahead, the Murrumbidgee CMA aims to strengthen the internal business systems that have been developed and make further progress towards performance excellence.

In response to the recent changes in investment streams and institutional arrangements with the Australian and NSW governments, as well as the important practical lessons learnt over the past few years, the Murrumbidgee CMA have refined the targeted approach to natural resource management investment. In the future, a market-based approach will be more prominent in the delivery of project funding, on-ground activities and business strategies.

The Murrumbidgee CMA values the input and participation of all stakeholders and will continue to have a strong community, client and partnership focus.

I believe the business and operational outputs and outcomes demonstrated in this year’s report will assist the Murrumbidgee CMA to achieve better environmental, social and economic outcomes across the entire Murrumbidgee catchment and promote stronger partnerships with all of our stakeholders into the future.

Greg Bugden
General Manager
Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority
Covering ten percent of the total area of NSW, the Murrumbidgee catchment has one of the most diverse climates and productive natural and agricultural environments in New South Wales.

The Murrumbidgee River is the main stream running through the catchment. The third longest river in Australia, local Wiradjuri people named the river “Murrumbidgee”, meaning “big water”.

The Murrumbidgee catchment is home to sites of international ecological significance including the Fivebough and Tuckerbil Swamps and the Lowbidgee Wetlands. It has 130 threatened species, of which 48 are endangered, and 26 migratory bird species.

Major threats facing the Murrumbidgee catchment include urban and dryland salinity, water quality decline, incursion of weeds, erosion and soil structure problems, destruction of native wildlife habitat, and biodiversity decline.
In 2004, the Murrumbidgee CMA was one of 13 Catchment Management Authorities established by the NSW Government, under the Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003. Our role is to engage regional communities in strategic on-ground activities to achieve better outcomes for native vegetation, biodiversity, land and rivers.

CMAs are community governed statutory organisations, and are the primary vehicle for the delivery of investment in NRM by the State and Australian governments, reporting directly to the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment.

The way in which the Murrumbidgee CMA undertakes its role has been guided by the NSW Government’s Standard for Quality Natural Resource Management (2005) and Recommendations State-wide Resource Condition Targets (September 2005).

The specific functions of the Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority, as described in section 15 of the Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003, are to:

- develop the Murrumbidgee Catchment Action Plan and to give effect to this plan through annual implementation programs
- provide loans, grants, subsidies or other financial assistance for the purposes of the catchment activities it is authorised to fund
- enter contracts or do any work for the purposes of the catchment activities it is authorised to carry out
- assist landholders to further the objectives of the Murrumbidgee Catchment Action Plan (including providing information about native vegetation)
- provide educational and training courses, and materials in connection with natural resource management
- exercise any other function relating to natural resource management as is prescribed by the regulations
The Murrumbidgee CMA is a team of highly skilled specialists in vegetation and landscape management. We rely on our dedicated staff, strong community partnerships and a well designed strategic approach to protect and improve the management of our ecologically diverse catchment.

With the support of our partners, we are educating, facilitating and empowering communities to improve the management of natural resources, on both privately and publicly owned rural land. In doing this we are maximising positive environmental, social and economic outcomes for the Murrumbidgee catchment.

The Murrumbidgee CMA is ensuring the protection and sustainable development of the environment through on-ground projects relating to:

- planting and protecting native vegetation
- managing water quality in creeks and rivers
- enhancing biodiversity
- improving soil health
- addressing urban and dryland salinity
- raising awareness of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage
- supporting Landcare

### Clients

- Rural landholders and managers with whom we negotiate on-ground natural resource works
- People of the Murrumbidgee catchment, including Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal People
- Local Governments of the catchment with whom we negotiate on-ground natural resource works and collaborate on natural resource planning
- Landcare networks and groups of the catchment whom we support for communication, capacity building and natural resource funding submissions
- Community participants in project liaison committees

### Stakeholders

- Rural landholders and managers
- Landcare members
- Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal People
- Local governments
- Funding partners
- Natural Resources Commission
- Agribusiness and related industry service providers
- Murrumbidgee Catchment community – urban and rural
- Contractors delivering Murrumbidgee CMA projects
- Universities, research organisations and other providers of up-to-date knowledge
- Related Government Agencies
- Local members and ministers at the State and Federal level
- NSW Catchment Management Authorities
- Environmental Groups

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Lower Murrumbidgee EcoTender meeting, Balranald
our core business

To collaboratively develop a plan for the development of the catchment that reflects how the broader community want the Murrumbidgee catchment’s natural resources to be managed Catchment Action Plan.

To work with stakeholders to facilitate the implementation of the Murrumbidgee CAP and promote the management of natural resources consistent with the community’s aspirations and state and national government priorities.

To demonstrate our progress towards achieving community, state and national natural resource management goals.

To continually improve how natural resource management is being delivered across the Murrumbidgee catchment by being innovative and flexible in our response to better science and new and emerging issues, such as climate change.

operational responsibilities

### Plans
- Integration of existing catchment, water, native vegetation and other natural resource management plans into the Murrumbidgee CAP
- Manage community involvement in the preparation of water sharing and groundwater plans

### On-ground activities
- Native vegetation management; river and riparian rehabilitation; salinity abatement and soil health programs; improving farm sustainability systems

### Community education and support
- Provision of community education, support and capacity building in natural resource management
- Technical advice on vegetation, soil, land and riparian management and related natural resource management issues
- Consultation and engagement of Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal people in natural resource management programs and development of the Murrumbidgee CAP

### Investment
- Implementation of the Murrumbidgee CAP and development of related investment strategies
- Manage the NSW and Australian governments’ Catchment Action NSW and Caring for our Country and programs in the Murrumbidgee catchment
- Delivery of incentives through the Property Vegetation Planning process
- Manage the Australian Government’s investment in the Murrumbidgee and Coleambally Land and Water Management Plans
Corporate Governance
The Murrumbidgee CMA’s framework for good corporate governance is central to the organisation’s accountability and responsibility to all stakeholders.

This framework for governance revolves around adequate internal and external reporting processes, measuring and monitoring performance, demonstrating integrity and transparency in decision making and being accountable for these decisions.

The Murrumbidgee CMA operates within the provisions of the Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003.

The Board
The Murrumbidgee CMA Board is responsible for providing overall direction to the Murrumbidgee CMA, as well as undertaking specific governing, advisory and operational responsibilities.

Together, the Board provide a range of experience, skills and knowledge in community engagement, primary production, biodiversity conservation, cultural heritage, business administration and corporate governance.

Board appointments are conducted by the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment according to the NSW Premier’s Department Guidelines for NSW Board and Committee Members: Appointments and Remuneration.

Board structure
The Murrumbidgee CMA Board consists of five to seven members, including the Chairperson.

Board members are required to complete Corporate Governance Training, and demonstrate eligibility for membership of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, or an equivalent body.

Board Meetings
The Murrumbidgee CMA’s Board held 11 scheduled meetings at locations throughout the Murrumbidgee Catchment in the 2008-09 reporting period. Members receive detailed briefings on key issues from senior management and staff throughout the year.

The General Manager attends all meetings. Minutes are taken to record all Board decisions.
LEE O’BRIEN  
Chairperson  
Appointed 11 February 2004  
Lee has a Bachelor of Education (Technical) degree. In partnership with his wife Hetty, Lee owns and operates a sheep and dryland cropping farm at Henty in the southern part of the mid-Murrumbidgee catchment. He has a strong interest in Landcare, profitable - sustainable farming systems and integrated natural resource management.  
Lee has been a member of the Alma Park/Pleasant Hills Landcare Group over the past fourteen years and was formerly an executive committee member of the Eastern Riverina Landcare Network.  
Committees:  
E.H. Graham Centre Industry Advisory Committee  
Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre Advisory Committee  
Attended 11/11 Board meetings  

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SULARI GOONETILLEKE  
Board Member  
Appointed 10 March 2008  
Sulari resides, works and owns a property in West Batlow, where she and her husband run a Truffle negocio. With a Bachelor of Science, honours in Law and a Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice, Sulari started her career as a legal advisor and later worked as a corporate lawyer.  
She is now an independent consultant and Corporate Counsel to a Tasmanian truffle company. Sulari was an original member of the Catchment Management Board for the Murrumbidgee and assisted in the development of the Murrumbidgee Catchment Blueprint.  
Attended 10/11 Board meetings  

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Attended 10/11 Board meetings  

JOSEPH BURNS  
Board Member  
Appointed 5 June 2005  
Joseph is a Certified Practising Accountant and a Justice of the Peace. He previously worked for the NSW Department of Land and Water Conservation and has a deep interest and wide experience in natural resource and environmental management issues.  
He is an associate of the Society of Certified Practicing Accountants and has 33 years experience specialising in the preparation of Annual Financial Statements and annual budgets. Mayor of the Leeton Shire Council for nearly ten years, Joseph was a Councillor for over eighteen years. He was recently appointed as Deputy Chair of the Riverina Regional Development Australia Board.  
Committees:  
Riverina Regional Development Australia Board (Deputy Chair)  
Attended 10/11 Board meetings  

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Committees:  
Riverina Regional Development Australia Board (Deputy Chair)  
Attended 10/11 Board meetings  

MIKE SCHULTZ  
Board Member  
Appointed 5 May 2004  
Mike is an ecologist based in Leeton, and has had 20 years experience as a primary producer in horticulture. He is a Director of an environmental and ecotourism company, MG & JT Pty. Ltd. Trading as TEMP  
For the past 17 years Mike has worked in the areas of biodiversity conservation and catchment management, having been member of the NSW Native Vegetation Advisory Council, NSW Resource and Conservation Assessment Council, Murrumbidgee Regulated River Management Committee, and Murrumbidgee and Lachlan Groundwater Management Committees.  
Though his interest and involvement in waterbird research and wetland management, he has authored and co-authored a number of articles, technical reports, and publications in these fields.  
Attended 10/11 Board meetings
GEOFFREY CHAPMAN  
Board Member  
Appointed 10 March 2008

Geoff together with his wife, Jill and family own and operates a 8200 hectare pastoral property south of Hay. He has lived in the Hay area for 24 years and has a keen interest in all aspects of natural resource management. A member of the initial Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Board, Geoff assisted in the development of the Murrumbidgee Catchment Blueprint. Geoff is a member of the Murrumbidgee CMA Finance and Audit subcommittee and Communications Working Group. As an active contributor to local farmer industry associations and Landcare, Geoff has an appreciation of landholder and community expectations of vegetation, water and biodiversity management.

Attended 11/11 Board meeting

DICK THOMPSON  
Board Member  
Appointed 5 May 2004

Dick owns and operates a broad acre irrigation farm at Hanwood producing rice, winter cereals and prime lambs. Dick was elected to the initial Irrigators Board in 1989; in July 1997 he chaired the former Murrumbidgee Irrigation State Owned Corporation, and has continued on as Chairman since the irrigator owned Company was formed in 1999. Dick is a member of the Murrumbidgee Customer Services Committee of State Water.

Committees:  
Murrumbidgee Irrigation (Chair)  
State Water – Murrumbidgee Customer Services Committee (Member)  
Murray Darling Basin Community Committee (Member)

Attended 10/11 Board meetings

SUE BULGER  
Board Member  
Appointed 17 February 2009

Sue is a Wiradjuri woman, born in Gundagai and raised at the Brungle Mission. She has more than 30 years experience as a primary school teacher and is currently teaching at a local Catholic School in Tumut, where she now resides.

Sue is an active member of the Tumut community, and has been a Councilor at Tumut Shire Council for the past nine years. She is passionate about youth, education, and Indigenous issues, and is dedicated to promoting opportunity for Aboriginal People to reconnect with ‘Country’ and further their education in Cultural Heritage. Sue believes understanding and applying the values of Cultural Heritage in the landscape will help maintain a sustainable catchment for the future.

Committees:  
Council Delegate for the Tumut Shire Youth Council  
Tumut Shire Council Aboriginal Liaison Committee

Attended 5/5 Board meetings

Key Board Actions 2008-09

- Development of the Murrumbidgee CMA Corporate Strategic Plan
- Development of the Operational Plan of the Murrumbidgee CMA Corporate Strategic Plan
- Lodged Investment Proposal for Caring for our Country 2009-12
- Lodged Investment Program for Catchment Action NSW 2009-10

Major Board Events

- Darlington Point Traditional Owner River Restoration Project launch, Darlington Point
- Yindiyamara Showcase, Wagga Wagga
- Murrumbidgee Regional Landcare Awards, Griffith
- Returning to Country and Culture DVD launch, Tumut
- Queanbeyan Traditional Owner River Restoration Project launch, Queanbeyan

Board Committees

Two committees assist the Murrumbidgee CMA with corporate governance functions. Each committee operates under approved Terms of Reference and is chaired by a Board Member. Minutes of each meeting and recommendations are presented to the Board for consideration.

Finance and Audit Committee

The Finance and Audit Committee is responsible for ensuring the Murrumbidgee CMA’s corporate governance responsibilities and financial/administrative accountabilities are met. These responsibilities relate to financial planning, management and control processes. The Committee plays a major role in ensuring accounting policies and principles are implemented in accordance with the stated financial reporting framework.

Risk Management and Governance Committee

The primary purpose of the Risk Management and Governance Committee is to ensure the Murrumbidgee CMA’s corporate risk management and governance responsibilities are met. This is achieved by ensuring appropriate systems are in place to assess key strategic and operational risks to the Murrumbidgee CMA, and maintaining the controls needed to manage these risks.
The Murrumbidgee CMA Management Team is led by General Manager and comprises of four Program Managers who oversee the implementation of projects and business operations.

In April 2009, Dr John Searson retired as General Manager after nearly five years in the position and more than 38 years service in the NSW Public Service. After acting in the role for a number of months, Mr Greg Bugden was appointed as General Manager in September 2009.

**GENERAL MANAGER**
Greg Bugden
Dip.App.Sc(Agric)

The General Manager is responsible for day-to-day operations and reports to the Board. It is the responsibility of the General Manager to ensure the Murrumbidgee CMA achieves its mission and financial objectives by:

- leading, directing, managing and controlling the operations of the Authority through efficient use of human, information and financial resources
- developing, reviewing and implementing operational policies, strategies and strategic plans
- providing strategic, business, technical and policy advice to the Board and supporting the Board’s governance and advisory roles
- maintaining and developing partnerships with stakeholders including the local community, private sector and all tiers of government

**PROGRAM MANAGER**
Sustainable Landscapes and Implementation
Rob Scriven
Dip.App.Sc; M.App Sc

The Program Manager of the Sustainable Landscapes Unit is responsible for staff and programs related to developing sustainable landscapes within a production-conservation oriented environment. The Sustainable Landscapes Unit is tasked with:

- working closely with landcare and the community to engage them in natural resource management activities,
- connecting with the indigenous community and Traditional Owners to promote understanding and awareness of cultural heritage and cultural values in natural resource management
- delivering environmental stewardship programs for the ongoing management of endangered ecological vegetation communities using tender based incentive programs,
- management, conservation and rehabilitation of riverbank, wetland and floodplains including a focus on significant wetlands
- promoting sustainable agriculture in the wheat-sheep belt and sustainable grazing of the Riverine plains and shrublands,
- working with industry including the major irrigation corporations to assist them with natural resource management outcomes
- liaising with and fostering partnerships with local government and the community to achieve the targets set out in the Murrumbidgee Catchment Action Plan

The Sustainable Landscapes Unit is spread across seven CMA office locations throughout the catchment and integrates soil health, biodiversity, water quality, wetland management, cultural heritage programs at the farm level, and is engaged in large-scale and industry projects.
The Sustainable Ecosystems, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Community Program Manager is responsible for projects relating to ecosystem management. Programs include monitoring and evaluation, strategic planning, development and review of the Murrumbidgee Catchment Action Plan, compliance with Natural Resources Commission Standard and Targets, and the management of staff and project implementation in the eastern half of the catchment.

The Sustainable Ecosystems, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Community Program includes a Property Vegetation Planning team as well as staff delivering on-ground projects including improving soil health, addressing salinity and improving water quality, protecting and enhancing biodiversity, river restoration, wetland conservation, urban salinity management, perennial pasture establishment, riverine habitat improvement and willow control. All projects include a community involvement component to ensure uptake and on-going partnerships with organisations including local government and Landcare.

The Investment team is responsible for the development of the Murrumbidgee CMA Investment Strategies and Annual Implementation Plans. They are required to communicate, to the community and other stakeholders, the range of investment programs the Murrumbidgee CMA will be implementing, and to seek expressions of interest for each project. Projects are implemented annually with set contract milestones, reviewed on a quarterly basis. Monitoring, evaluation and auditing of each project is undertaken through either internal or external audits. The unit is responsible for brokering and developing additional funding opportunities with stakeholders to implement the Murrumbidgee Catchment Action Plan.

Engagement of indigenous communities in natural resource management is a significant activity of the unit, overseeing specific projects, working groups and supporting the Traditional Owners Reference Group.

The Finance team is responsible for carrying-out financial and administrative support services for the Murrumbidgee CMA. The team manages the delivery of shared support services from Department of Environment and Climate Change and other providers. Responsible for budget preparation and monitoring, the team also undertakes management and statutory reporting, development and implementation of administrative procedures, facilities management, assets, motor vehicles and staff establishment and recruitment issues.
As required under the Catchment Management Authority Act 2003 and the Natural Resources Commission Act 2003, the Murrumbidgee CMA is compliant with the NSW Standard for Quality Natural Resource Management 2005. The Standard outlines what the Natural Resource Commission expects regarding the implementation of the Murrumbidgee Catchment Action Plan and the way the Murrumbidgee CMA manages programs and projects, staff, clients and other partners.

The Murrumbidgee CMA strives for excellence in NRM and systematic approaches are applied to meeting the Standard and to fostering a culture of excellence in all aspects of our business.

Business Systems
Business systems have been developed internally to ensure cost effective investment in NRM and to ensure the confidence of the public, investors, and clients in how we make that investment.

A number of key business systems have been developed and applied to the Murrumbidgee CMA’s including a transparent, consistent and repeatable system to rank investment options, the use of best knowledge in NRM, management and mitigation of risks in NRM, and an integrated approach to relating the systems to each other.

Business systems have been developed for:
- Risk
- Occupational health and safety
- Integrated project delivery
- Use of best Knowledge
- Document management control
- Procurement
- Communication
- Annual investment strategy

Upgrading document control
Objective Electronic Document and Records Management System is a tool that is designed to provide the capability to “corporately” store, retrieve, share, distribute and manage documents whether in electronic or paper format. It integrates with other desktop applications including Word, Excel, Acrobat and GroupWise providing a much more comprehensive and reliable environment to identify information associated with specific content over time.

Murrumbidgee CMA introduced Objective EDRMS as an initiative to help improve service delivery and support compliance with the growing regulatory and legal requirements such as the NSW Government policy on Electronic Record keeping and Electronic Messages as Records, April, 1998 and the requirement for all NSW Government Agencies to have such systems in place by 2012.

All Murrumbidgee CMA staff received end user training on Objective EDRMS early March 2009. The Murrumbidgee CMA is committed to effectively managing its records within Objective EDRMS.
Murrumbidgee Catchment Action Plan

The Murrumbidgee Catchment Action Plan is a legislative document developed by the Murrumbidgee CMA to give voice and strategic focus to the community’s aspirations for natural resource management in the Murrumbidgee catchment. The plan spans ten years, and is updated to reflect improving knowledge and changing community priorities. The Murrumbidgee CAP was approved by the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment in January 2008, following four years of extensive community consultation and development.

The NSW Government’s Standard for Quality Natural Resource Management has informed and functionalised the targets and actions of the CAP, which have been divided into four key asset areas. Each of the four assets; Community, Biodiversity, Water and Land, has targets, actions and ways to monitor progress toward improvement.

It is intended the community be involved in delivering the CAP, with Industry, government agencies, Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal people, local government, rural and urban communities, Landcare and other stakeholders having the opportunity for input and partnership to achieve the targets. The Murrumbidgee CMA plays an important brokering role to foster partnerships and co-investment to deliver the outcomes of the CAP.

You can view the Murrumbidgee CAP online at: www.murrumbidgee.cma.nsw.gov.au

State Plan: A New Direction

The NSW State Plan sets out the areas of activity the community sees as priority in the goal of practical environmental solutions.

The Murrumbidgee CMA has aligned itself against the targets and actions under priority E4: Better Environmental Outcomes for Native Vegetation, Biodiversity, Land and Rivers, and is delivering locally through the Murrumbidgee CAP

The Murrumbidgee CMA is tailoring on-ground projects to meet environmental challenges, particularly climate change and drought and environmental protection for sustainable healthy and resilient natural resources.

Caring for our Country

The Australian Government’s Caring for our Country initiative seeks to achieve an environment that is healthy, better protected, well managed and resilient, and provides essential ecosystem services in a changing climate.

In 2008-09, the Caring for our Country business plan was released seeking investment proposals for projects that address the national priority areas. It identified the priority targets, designed as stepping stones to achieve five-year outcomes across national priority areas.
Since 2004, the Murrumbidgee CMA has:

- Planted 2.5 million trees
- Protected 1000 hectares of critical wetland habitat
- Managed 450,000 hectares of land for improved soil health
- Conserved 42,000 hectares of native vegetation
- Trained and empowered over 3,500 landholders to manage the environment
- Skilled over 60 Indigenous trainees in landscape conservation and cultural heritage

Investment

Building on the success of the previous four years, there were substantial on-ground achievements made in 2008-09. As a result of strong community engagement, strategic planning and on-ground works programs, we have made significant headway in achieving targets identified in the Murrumbidgee Catchment Action Plan.

During 2008-09, the Murrumbidgee CMA invested $8,172,600 in the delivery of programs that improved the quality and extent of native vegetation; rehabilitated waterways; conserved wetlands and helped landholders better manage natural resources on-farm.

Table 1. Investment by areas of activity

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<th>Program</th>
<th>Estimated investment ($m) 2008-09</th>
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<td>Native vegetation</td>
<td>2,244,000</td>
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<td>Salt affected sites</td>
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<td>Creeks and river banks</td>
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<td>Sustainable land management</td>
<td>387,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wetlands</td>
<td>281,000</td>
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<td>Land manager training</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irrigation L&amp;WMP’s</td>
<td>2,665,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$8,172,600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chart 1. Investment by areas of activity

- Irrigation Land & Water Management Plans
- Land manager training
- Wetlands
- Sustainable land management
- Creeks and river banks
- Native vegetation
Table 2. Expense distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense distribution</th>
<th>Investment (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project implementation</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chart 2. Expense distribution

- Operating: 1%
- Salaries: 20%
- Project implementation: 67%
### Table 3. Source of funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of funds</th>
<th>Investment (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aust /NSW Govt - NAP</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aust Govt - Caring for Our Country</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Govt - Recurrent Operating Funds</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Govt - Land Water Management Plans</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Govt - Catchment Action NSW</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Govt - Other (ESS,S10,Sust. Trust)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aust Govt - Other (NLP &amp; NHT)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aust Govt - Caring for Our Country - Open Grants</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Chart 3. Source of funds

![Chart showing the source of funds]
Chart 4. Achievements by area of activity

Salt affected sites rehabilitated

Wetlands protected and enhanced

Native vegetation protected and enhanced

Creeks and river banks enhanced and rehabilitated

- Salt affected sites rehabilitated (ha)
- Target

- Wetlands enhanced and rehabilitated
- Target

- Native vegetation enhanced and rehabilitated (ha)
- Target

- Creeks and river banks enhanced and rehabilitated (ha)
- Target
“Over half a million ha of land has been protected since 2005”

Property Vegetation Planning

Since December 2005, the Murrumbidgee CMA has partnered landholders in a total of xx Property Vegetation Plans across the Murrumbidgee catchment. xx of these PVPs were negotiated in 2008-09 financial year and have resulted in revegetation and natural regeneration, stewardship of existing vegetation, or remnant vegetation protection.

PVPs are an integral part of native vegetation laws in NSW and are helping landholders achieve a healthy balance between environmental and on-farm production benefits.

Table 4. Native vegetation protected under PVPs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2005-06</th>
<th>2006-07</th>
<th>2007-08</th>
<th>2008-09</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hectares protected</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>13,000</td>
<td>44,398</td>
<td>10,273</td>
<td>67,703</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PVP: A legal agreement by which the Murrumbidgee CMA administers and delivers incentive funding, under the Native Vegetation Act 2003, to landholders to protect and maintain and restore important vegetation types, landscapes, river banks and wetlands.
Table 5. Delivery of Property Vegetation Plans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2005-06</th>
<th>2006-07</th>
<th>2007-08</th>
<th>2008-09</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Development PVP</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incentive PVP</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuing Use PVP</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>515</td>
<td>196</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Data has varied from previous annual reports due to a change from PAMS reporting mechanism to PADACS.

Chart 5. Delivery of Property Vegetation Plans

PVPs – Delivered by specialists

The Murrumbidgee CMA comprises of more than 60 specialist staff, located at 12 regional centres throughout the catchment. Our team delivers a full range of professional natural resource management services to the Murrumbidgee catchment community and are accredited and highly skilled in the delivery of PVP agreements.

In 2008-09:
- 17 Murrumbidgee CMA staff are accredited in PVP Level 1 to develop financial incentive PVPs
- A further 7 staff are accredited in PVP Level 2 to deliver incentive and clearing PVPs
- 7 staff are PVP Level 3 Accredited Experts in the areas of water quality; soils; salinity; biodiversity; threatened species