Supporting local people to live and work in ways that lead to a healthy and productive environment.
Southern Rivers Catchment Management
Authority Office Locations

Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority (CMA) head office is located at Wollongong. Office hours are Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 5.00pm.

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Southern Rivers CMA also has offices at Batemans Bay, Bega, Braidwood, Cooma and Nowra.

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COOMA 2630
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The Hon. Frank Sartor, MP  
Minister for Climate Change and the Environment  
Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)  
Level 35, Governor Macquarie Tower  
1 Farrer Place  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister Sartor,

We have great pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority (CMA) for the financial period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010, for submission to New South Wales Parliament.

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

The report details the activities and achievements of our organisation and includes the relevant statutory and financial information for Southern Rivers CMA.

Yours sincerely

Pam Green  
Chair  
Noel Kesby  
General Manager
Compliance Checklist

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About this Annual Report

This document is the Annual Report for Southern Rivers CMA and is provided in accordance with section 17(2) of the Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003. This document reports on Southern Rivers CMA's activities and achievements for the financial period 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010.

The Annual Report contains a selection of case studies demonstrating some of the on-ground works undertaken to improve the health of the catchment within the Southern Rivers region.

One hundred copies of this Annual Report were produced at a print cost of $18.25. Southern Rivers CMA is committed to minimising costs and reducing paper use in producing its Annual Report.

This Annual Report can be downloaded from www.southern.cma.nsw.gov.au

Photo acknowledgements

All images contained in this report are subject to copyright ©. Images were provided by Southern Rivers CMA staff and Michael Fiedler.

Acronyms

CAP.............................................................................................................Catchment Action Plan
CMA...........................................................................................................Catchment Management Authority
CSIRO.................................................................Commonwealth Scientific Industry Research Organisation
CMB.............................................................................................................Catchment Management Board
CVA.............................................................................................................Conservation Volunteers Australia
DECCW.................................Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
DLA.............................................................................................................District Landcare Association
EEO................................................................................................................Equal Employment Opportunity
EMS............................................................................................................Environmental Management System
FOI Act........................................................................................................Freedom of Information Act 1989
FSCLA.............................................................Far South Coast Landcare Association
GIPA Act..........................................................Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009
GIS ..................................................................................................................Geographic Information System
GSAHS......................................................................................................Greater Southern Area Health Service
I&I NSW.................................................................Industry & Investment NSW
NHT..............................................................................................................Natural Heritage Trust
NPWS.................................................................NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
NRC...............................................................................................................Natural Resource Commission
NRM.................................................................Natural Resource Management
NSW...............................................................................................................New South Wales
NV ..............................................................................................................Native Vegetation
OH&S.........................................................Occupational Health and Safety
PVP.............................................................................................................Property Vegetation Plan
RAMA.............................................................Routine Agricultural Management Activity
SAP..............................................................................................................Systems Application Processing
UNSW...............................................................................................University of NSW
It is with pleasure that I present the Southern Rivers CMA Annual Report for 2009-10.

Southern Rivers CMA has received increased investment from the New South Wales (NSW) Government via Catchment Action NSW funding and has been supported through base-level funding and a small proportion of competitive funding from the Australian Government’s Caring for our Country program. The efforts and investment by volunteers and landholders provide a multiplier of at least 1:3 on this investment - a remarkable achievement.

The Australian Government has changed the funding criteria for Landcare and other volunteer natural resource management (NRM) groups. The challenges created for these groups has been a lack of direct funding available for the support of group dynamics and growth and the development of knowledge and skills. Southern Rivers CMA has continued to provide support to the region’s Landcare structure including the regional organisation, South East Landcare, seven District Landcare Associations and through them to more than 120 Landcare groups.

During 2009-10 Southern Rivers CMA performed extremely well in the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) Performance Audit. Solid work on quality project delivery, refinement of systems and project reporting together with a focus on some exploratory projects and adaptive management were very well received.

The year has been one of transition for the organisation as we shifted operations to accommodate the new requirements from funding partners. It has also seen some great achievements in maturing partnerships, project outcomes and recognition of key relationships in our region. Southern Rivers CMA won a NSW Landcare Award for Regional NRM Bodies and was a finalist in the National Landcare Awards. A new and exciting partnership project commenced with the Greater Area Health Service exploring the connection between physical and mental health with NRM interactions. A report will be completed later in 2010.

Southern Rivers CMA made submissions to the reviews of the Native Vegetation Act 2003, Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003, Natural Resources Commission Act 2003, several major NSW and Australian Government inquiries into NRM issues and the development of a paper entitled “The NRM Governance System in Australia”. It is important to contribute to the efforts to mature the regional model of NRM in NSW and across Australia.

Two CMAs are piloting preparation of new Catchment Action Plans (CAPs) with the NRC with a focus on exploring Resilience Thinking. Once these pilots have been assessed, a new framework for the review of CAPs for the remaining CMAs will be development. It is anticipated that Southern Rivers CMA’s CAP review will begin in 2011.

Southern Rivers CMA’s work in the area of the Native Vegetation Act 2003 has continued with the provision of technical advice and support to landholders and Local Government. The majority of our work in this sphere is related to Local Government and rural residential development. Property Vegetation Plans also provide a valuable vehicle for securing voluntary conservation and incentive programs.

Over the past 12 months, Southern Rivers CMA’s projects and programs have delivered almost $7.3 million in on-ground investment including:

- $1.4m in community and partnerships programs
- $2.2m in biodiversity programs
- $1.2m in soils and land programs
- $2.5m in water programs (including coastal and marine)

The year ahead offers new opportunities through involvement in climate change initiatives including carbon farming and also the green corridors program recently announced by the incoming Australian Government. Refinement of our systems and increased analysis through project and program evaluation will continue to build on the strengths identified during the NRC Audit. As always, the focus on people, relationships and partnerships, which is the hallmark of this organisation, will continue to bear fruit.

I take this opportunity to thank my fellow Board members for their commitment and support during the year and I acknowledge and pay tribute to the dedicated staff of Southern Rivers CMA whose passion drives us forward.

Pam Green
Chairperson
We deliver: We aim to deliver on-ground outcomes on time, on brief and on budget. In order to achieve this we aim to establish quality standards in all areas of our work and work towards these with honesty, transparency and accountability.

During 2009-10 as part of a revision of its Strategic Plan, the Southern Rivers CMA Board and staff adopted the above mission and values (refer page 14 - Southern Rivers CMA Strategic Plan).

Our stakeholders
Southern Rivers CMA works with local communities, farmers and land managers, resident and non-resident landholders, government agencies, non-government organisations, Aboriginal people, local government, businesses and industry to address the NRM issues facing the region.

Our role and function
Southern Rivers CMA is one of 13 CMAs established by the NSW Government in 2004 as part of broad NRM reforms. CMAs were established to engage regional communities in key NRM issues. This approach to NRM was the result of recommendations made in October 2003 by the Native Vegetation Reform Implementation Group chaired by the Right Honourable Ian Sinclair AC.

CMAs are statutory authorities that report directly to the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment.
Each CMA Board consists of a chairperson and up to six board members with all appointments being skill and merit based.

CMAs have built on the work of the Catchment Management Boards (CMBs) and integrated the Catchment Blueprints developed by CMBs into CAPs.

CMAs are the primary vehicle for the delivery of incentive programs funded by the NSW and Australian Governments to achieve improvements in the State’s natural resources.

The specific functions of CMAs as described in Section 15 of the Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003 are to:

• develop CAPs and give effect to any such approved plans through annual implementation programs
• provide loans, grants, subsidies or other financial assistance for catchment activities
• enter contracts or do any work for the purpose of catchment activities
• assist landholders to achieve the objectives of the CAP
• provide educational and training courses and materials in connection with NRM
• exercise any other function relating to NRM as prescribed by the regulations.

More broadly, the responsibilities of CMAs can be described as follows:

PLANS

• integration of existing catchment, native vegetation and other NRM plans into a CAP
• facilitate and manage community involvement in preparation of water sharing and groundwater plans

ON-GROUND WORKS

• on-ground works through funding from Catchment Action NSW and CMA operational funding programs
• on-ground works through funding from the Australian Government’s Caring for our Country initiative

COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND SUPPORT

• provision of advice and support to stakeholders and community on a range of NRM issues
• Aboriginal consultation on CAPs, NRM planning, programs and investment strategies
• provision of community education and capacity building
• technical advice on vegetation management, soil and land management, riparian management and other NRM issues

INVESTMENT

• implementation of CAPs
• development of investment strategies
• approved Caring for our Country programs
• approved Catchment Action NSW projects
• delivery of incentives through Property Vegetation Plans (PVPs) and other mechanisms

PVPS/VEGETATION CONSENT

• certification of PVPs for establishing continuing uses and delivery of incentive payments
• assessment of all vegetation consents under the Native Vegetation Act 2003 including PVPs for land clearing consents.

Southern Rivers CMA is setting the future direction for NRM in the Southern Rivers region by identifying achievable targets and milestones for the implementation of on-ground works.

Southern Rivers CMA works towards:

• gaining community involvement in decision-making to improve identification and understanding of natural resource issues
• helping communities develop sustainable programs and results
• encouraging the concept of stewardship to enable the land to be passed on to future generations without compromising their ability to meet community needs.

Legislation under which we operate

In carrying out its role, Southern Rivers CMA operates under the following NSW Legislation:

• Annual Reports Act (Statutory Bodies) 1984
• Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Regulation 2000
• Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003
• Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009
• Native Vegetation Act 2003
• Native Vegetation Regulation 2005
• Natural Resources Commission Act 2003
• Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000
• Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 2001
• Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998
• Public Finance and Audit Act 1983
• Public Finance and Audit Act Regulation 2000
• Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002
• Soil Conservation Act 1938
• Water Management Act 2000
• Workers Compensation Regulation 2003
The Southern Rivers region covers a 32,000 square kilometre area of south-east NSW—from Stanwell Park in the north to the Victorian border in the south. It extends westward to include the catchments of the Snowy, Genoa and Shoalhaven Rivers.

The Southern Rivers region is characterised by a high level of diversity in its landscapes, land uses and communities. Landscapes range from the temperate rainforests of the coast to the wide and open grasslands of the Monaro, from extensive coastal estuaries and lakes to small upland freshwater wetlands, and from intermittently flowing coastal streams to marine waters. The landscape is dominated by many river systems, including the Minnamurra, Shoalhaven, Clyde, Deua, Tuross, Brogo, Moruya, Bega, Bemboka, Towamba, Genoa and Snowy Rivers.

Cities and towns in the region include Wollongong, Shellharbour, Kiama, Nowra-Bomaderry, Ulladulla, Braidwood, Bateman’s Bay, Moruya, Narooma, Bermagui, Bega, Merimbula, Bombala and Jindabyne.

Population
The Southern Rivers region is home to approximately half a million people. Population levels are trending strongly upwards in most of the coastal centres. The south coast and southern tablelands include many holiday destinations—towns and villages whose populations often double at peak holiday times.

Industry
The Southern Rivers region supports a variety of land uses including a range of agricultural industries, commercial and recreational fishing, aquaculture, water harvesting, heavy industry, forestry, surface and underground mining, urban and lifestyle development and tourism and recreation.

Economy
The current economic and social prosperity of the region is based on natural resources and includes primary industries such as sheep, beef, dairying, fishing, timber production, oyster farming, horticulture and a suite of “boutique” products. Other industries such as recreation, tourism and nature conservation rely heavily on the region’s natural resources. Manufacturing is significant in the northern part of the region, with small business becoming increasingly important to the functioning of local economies in the smaller settlements.

Land
About 65 per cent of the region is publicly managed (mostly in National Parks or State Forests and Crown lands). The remainder is privately managed agricultural, lifestyle and urban land. The large amount of publicly managed land provides an excellent base for biodiversity conservation and also provides a range of ecosystem services including clean water, clean
resources and the introduction of pest species. In addition, the threat posed by climate change is potentially significant.

Regions
The diversity of the region provides challenges in terms of solutions for local landscapes, local people and local land uses. The Southern Rivers CMA region is divided into six sub-regions: Illawarra, Upper Shoalhaven Lower Shoalhaven, Eurobodalla, Bega/Eden and Snowy/Monaro, in recognition of the differing NRM issues affecting each region. The location of CMA offices largely corresponds with these sub-regions.

There are 17 state electorates, four federal electorates, two regional Aboriginal Land Councils and 13 local Aboriginal Land Councils in the region.

Southern Rivers CMA covers all or part of 12 Local Government areas: Wollongong, Shellharbour, Kiama, Shoalhaven, Eurobodalla, Bega Valley, Bombala, Snowy River, Palerang, Goulburn Mulwaree and Wingecarribee.

Figure One - Southern Rivers CMA Region
What is the Catchment Action Plan?

The development of a CAP is a requirement of all NSW Catchment Management Authorities under the Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003. These regional plans drive and integrate community and government action and investment in NRM. They are the primary mechanism for delivering the NSW State Plan (Priority E4), which sets out the state-wide targets for community, biodiversity, land and water. A CAP includes the results that are expected to be achieved and time frames for achieving them as well as priorities for funding and carrying out of catchment activities in the CMA region.

Southern Rivers CMA CAP was approved by the then NSW Minister for Natural Resources, Ian Macdonald in January 2007. The CAP is a high-level strategic document that identifies and describes the Southern Rivers region’s biophysical and social structures and sets out the activities needed to conserve and manage them. The CAP is not legally enforceable. It is a “living” document that will be modified over time as new information becomes available or priorities change. The timing and process for review is determined by the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment.

Southern Rivers CMA CAP comprises five resource programs or themes:
- Community and Partnerships
- Biodiversity
- Soil and Land Capability
- Water
- Coastal and Marine

These five programs link with the four state program areas (the NSW State Plan combines the Water and Coastal and Marine Programs).

Each Southern Rivers CMA CAP program includes a catchment target setting out the desired condition for the catchment. Catchment targets are supported by management targets which describe the necessary outputs to achieve the catchment targets.

How the CAP was developed

The CAP built on the two previous Catchment Blueprints for the Southern Rivers region. Southern Rivers CMA’s investment programs (which guide funding for projects) are based on the NRM targets and activities identified in the CAP.

To develop the CAP, Southern Rivers CMA conducted an extensive consultation process across the region to identify the community’s NRM priorities.

CAP review

The next statutory review of Southern Rivers CMA’s CAP was scheduled for 2010. This will now be commenced during 2011 following finalisation of the Criteria and Attributes for Upgrading of CAPs pilot projects being undertaken during 2010-11 by NRC as part of a review of Namoi and Central West CMA’s CAPs.
Namoi and Central West CMAs have adopted the “Resilience Thinking” conceptual framework to underpin their CAP reviews. Resilience is defined as the capacity of a system to absorb disturbance and still retain its basic function and structure (Walker and Salt 2006). Resilience Thinking recognises that current approaches to sustainable NRM fail to deliver on expectations because they rely on modelling average conditions and ignore the impact of major disturbances and secondary impacts on systems.

NRC has set the objective for CAPs to focus on building resilience to future change, as recent prolonged droughts, declining water availability and extreme weather events along with the uncertainty around future climate have shown that we are in a time of rapid change and uncertainty. Resilience Thinking is considered an appropriate tool for managing systems in the face of high uncertainty as it assumes that the context for the system will be constantly changing.

If this pilot project is successful all CMAs across NSW will be required to adopt the same resilience principles when reviewing their CAPs. Once the results of the pilot project are announced by NRC, Southern Rivers CMA will commence a review of its CAP and finalise development if its sub-regional NRM Action Plans in line with NRC guidelines.

Southern Rivers CMA’s CAP (January 2007) can be downloaded from Southern Rivers CMA’s website at www.southern.nsw.gov.au

**NRM Action Plans**

The Southern Rivers region has been divided into six sub-regions to reflect the differences in the communities, issues and natural environment. These include: Illawarra, Shoalhaven, Upper Shoalhaven, Eurobodalla, Bega and Snowy/Monaro. To better identify and describe the region’s biophysical and social structures in local terms, and the activities required to manage and conserve them, Southern Rivers CMA is developing a detailed NRM Action Plan for each sub-region in partnership with local management teams and NRM reference groups.

These NRM Action Plans will ensure that each of the six sub-regional areas contribute to Southern Rivers CMA’s CAP targets and capture the local priorities of communities and partners. Local targets within the plans will describe how Southern Rivers CMA’s CAP management targets will be applied in each region.

During 2009-10 Southern Rivers CMA completed development of the Illawarra sub-region NRM Action Plan. It provides a coordinated approach for all natural resource work within the region through partnerships and collaborations with community groups, individuals, industry and government. In addition, there are a range of NSW Government agencies and local governments that deliver NRM programs in the Illawarra region, all of which contribute to the CAP. The success of implementing this NRM Action Plan will be dependent on everyone working together.

The Illawarra NRM Action Plan defines the priorities and outcomes to be achieved for NRM in the Illawarra for the next decade. Local targets show what is being done by the Illawarra “here and now” and reflect funding cycles, while 10-year targets give a longer term perspective.

The Illawarra NRM Action Plan will guide the allocation of investment from Southern Rivers CMA and other agencies to help direct effort and funding to where it is most needed. It also supports partners working together on collaborative projects to achieve common goals, or to achieve goals across a number of target areas.

The Illawarra Action Plan can be downloaded from Southern Rivers CMA’s website at www.southern.nsw.gov.au/our_catchment-illawarra

**Image: Catchment Action Plan.**

**Image: Illawarra Action Plan.**
Southern Rivers CMA’s Investment Program

Southern Rivers CMA’s investment program was completed in April 2010. It was reviewed by the NRC and NSW Treasury and submitted to the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment for approval in June 2010.

The Investment Program identifies how the CAP’s catchment and management targets will deliver on Chapter 5, Green State of the NSW State Plan by detailing proposed expenditure against each of the 13 state-wide targets and other investor preferences. It outlines the key performance indicators Southern Rivers CMA will deliver against to meet state targets.

The Investment Program incorporates funds received from the NSW Government under Catchment Action NSW funding, recurrent funding, the Australian Government’s Caring for our Country program and other funding sources.

Southern Rivers CMA’s compliance with the NSW Standard for Quality Natural Resource Management (NRC, 2005) and how the organisation manages risk are also identified in the Investment Program. The document outlines emerging issues along with the strategies to address them and provides an asset management statement.

Research and Development

THE MONARO RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TRIAL

The Monaro Research and Development trial continued for its fifth year. The trial is a partnership with Industry & Investment NSW (I&I NSW) which is investigating optimum grazing regimes to balance grazing and conservation of Native Temperate Grasslands. The project has for the first time delivered a comprehensive data set on the growth characteristics of a number of native grasses. This has enabled the calibration of the GrassGro® model (developed by CSIRO) for the Monaro region, which will be an important tool for supporting local farmers to optimise conservation and production goals at the enterprise level.

ECOLOGICAL CHANGE ASSOCIATED WITH SMART GATES IN THE SHOALHAVEN ESTUARY

This project being undertaken by University of Wollongong and the Shoalhaven Marine and Freshwater Centre continued and was completed during 2009-10. The project’s objectives were to establish the ecological conditions in tributaries and drains and to identify ecological changes due to the functioning of smart gates which allow the two-way passage of water into the drains. The project was established to measure if correct functioning of these gates will reduce the impacts of highly acidic, low oxygen and high metals concentration water on the estuary and river ecology.

During 2009-10 the project focussed on the impact of flood gates on the diversity and abundance of fish and crustaceans. The findings of the research have demonstrated that floodgates have a significant impact on the diversity and abundance of fish and crustaceans in the Shoalhaven River. Smart gates provide some fish diversity outcomes but not when compared to that of open channels.

Southern Rivers CMA will continue to work with the University and other stakeholders to estimate the cumulative impact of the almost 50 floodgates in the Shoalhaven floodplain and identify solutions to improve fish diversity and abundance.

Southern Rivers CMA Strategic Plan

Southern Rivers CMA’s Strategic Plan incorporates the organisation’s vision, mission, values and key result areas. It defines Southern Rivers CMA’s direction and assists the organisation in allocating its resources.

Southern Rivers CMA commenced revision of its Strategic Plan in late 2009. The process for redevelopment of the Strategic Plan involved initial work by Southern Rivers CMA’s Board. This was followed by workshops, meetings and discussions with staff from all sections of the CMA. The aim of this consultative and collaborative approach to developing the Strategic Plan is an increased understanding and commitment from within the organisation to executing the intent of the Plan.

The Strategic Plan will guide and drive common threads across work plans for each Southern Rivers CMA sub-region and for CMA staff. The Strategic Plan will also provide significant context for the next review of Southern Rivers CMA’s CAP.

The Strategic Plan defines Southern Rivers CMA’s strategic directions. The CAP will develop the quantitative targets and the sub-regional plans will operationalise them.

The Strategic Plan will be presented to the Southern Rivers CMA Board for final approval in 2010. Once adopted it will be circulated to all CMA staff and made available on Southern Rivers CMA’s intranet and internet sites.
FARM FAMILY HEALTH AND LANDSCAPE HEALTH – A HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE EXTENSION COMPONENT OF THE SUSTAINABLE NATIVE PASTURES PROJECT

Southern Rivers CMA completed a Health Impact Assessment on landholder extension services in the Upper Shoalhaven during 2009. This project was undertaken in partnership with the University of NSW (UNSW) and Greater Southern Area Health Service (GSAHS).

The results of this project, delivered in January 2010, demonstrated Southern Rivers CMA’s extension services deliver positive mental health outcomes to its clients along with general improvement to farm family health and wellbeing.

Southern Rivers CMA is continuing to work with UNSW and GSAHS to apply the findings of this work into Southern Rivers CMA operations. This will ensure that Southern Rivers CMA is understanding of, and working towards farm family health and wellbeing in the delivery of NRM projects. Additionally, Southern Rivers CMA will promote the outcomes of this work within the health and NRM sectors as further evidence of the multiple outcomes of NRM extension services.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Southern Rivers CMA’s Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Improvement planning, guides how the organisation gathers, analyses, reports and improves on the Southern Rivers CMA’s progress towards achieving its CAP targets.

During 2009-10 Southern Rivers CMA employed a dedicated Geographic Information System (GIS) Officer to develop and implement monitoring and evaluation reporting systems to enable high quality data collection, data storage, effective mapping of project sites and quality assurance.

A new information management system was purchased (Catchment Information Management System) to collect and collate information at both project and landholder contract level. This system will improve the quality of the data collected in order to improve reporting into the future.

A vegetation monitoring project was continued in partnership with NSW Department Environment Climate Change and Water (DECCW). The methodologies used in this project were consistent to those used at a state level.

Natural Resources Commission Audit

The NRC has a statutory role to audit whether the state’s 13 CAPs are being implemented in a way that complies with the Standard for Quality Natural Resource Management to achieve state-wide targets.

In 2008, NRC completed seven of the 13 audits. In 2009, NRC contracted external consultants GHD to undertake the remaining six audits. The NRC’s audit of Southern Rivers CMA was conducted by GHD in 2009. The audit findings were delivered in November 2009.

Summary of findings

The analysis of the audit results focused on four CMA activities:

1. prioritising investments to promote resilient landscapes
2. delivering projects that contribute to improved landscape function
3. actively engaging communities
4. effectively using adaptive management.

For each line of inquiry, NRC identified three or four criteria it would expect the CMA to meet, elements of the Standard that are most relevant and important to that line of inquiry, and CMA behaviours and other outcomes it would expect to find if the CMA is properly applying those elements of the Standard.

The NRC audit findings of Southern Rivers CMA’s CAP implementation can be obtained from the NRC’s website: [www.nrc.nsw.gov.au/content/documents/Audit_Report - Southern Rivers.pdf](http://www.nrc.nsw.gov.au/content/documents/Audit_Report - Southern Rivers.pdf)

Southern Rivers CMA will address the recommendations outlined in the Audit Report during 2010-11.
The Southern Rivers CMA Board reports directly to the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment. The Board consists of a Chairperson, Pam Green and six board members.

The Southern Rivers CMA Board has a governing, advisory and strategic operational role. It is accountable and responsible for the overall control and direction of the CMA.

Board Members have two roles, advisory and strategic operational, and are responsible and accountable for:

- the development of Southern Rivers CMA’s strategic direction and priority and goal setting
- stakeholder liaison and maintaining advocacy in the community
- developing and maintaining a strong community development/education program that is focused on catchment issues and the benefits to be achieved in NRM
- monitoring, evaluation and reporting of outcomes
- developing and driving implementation of a CAP that will enable Southern Rivers CMA to focus on NRM investment
- developing an Annual Implementation Program for approval by the Minister and overseeing its implementation.

In its advisory role, the Board is responsible and accountable for providing advice to the Minister on issues such as:

- the CAP
- regional environmental standards
- natural resources planning
- the effectiveness of NRM programs in the catchment.

In its strategic operational role, the Board is responsible and accountable for issues such as:

- ensuring that resources are used efficiently and expenditure is accountable
- ensuring compliance with Southern Rivers CMA’s statutory requirements
- managing risk (operational, legal, financial, regulatory and others) by ensuring appropriate procedures are in place and resources are appropriately allocated
- selection and evaluation of the performance of the General Manager
- evaluating its own performance and that of the Chairperson.

Board appointments are skill and merit based. The Board comprises persons who in the opinion of the Minister have combined skills and knowledge in primary production, environmental, social and economic analysis, NSW and local government administration, negotiation and consultation, business administration, community leadership, biodiversity conservation, cultural heritage and water quality.
All Southern Rivers CMA Board members are required to implement the functions as defined by their Ministerial letter of appointment, the Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003 and by the CMA Corporate Governance Manual. All board members have completed the Certificate in Directors Essentials by the Australian Institute of Company Directors as a condition of appointment.

The Southern Rivers CMA’s Board aims to meet monthly, however meeting frequency can vary due to board and staff obligations.


The Board also participated in conferences, field days and technical presentations about NRM issues and Southern Rivers CMA projects.

**Board Members**

**PAM GREEN** (Chairperson)

Pam grew up in a rural north-east Victoria farming community and has a wide range of NRM and governance experience and knowledge. Pam served the Eurobodalla community as a Councillor and Mayor and is a trained planning and development mediator. Pam champions balanced landuse planning and supports sustainable agriculture, water sharing and coastal and marine management. A dedicated worker for a sustainable future through her skills and knowledge and involvement in many NRM advisory bodies, she has a passion for people, their place in the landscape and local community involvement in decision making.

**MICHAEL MUSTON** (Deputy Chairperson)

Michael holds a Bachelor of Engineering from the University of Sydney and is a Fellow of the Institution of Engineers Australia, a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, a qualified commercial mediator through the Australian Commercial Disputes Centre and a Justice of the Peace. Michael has held a number of senior management positions in Sydney Water. He was the managing director of the Illawarra Ports Authority and general manager of Wingecarribee Shire Council. He is currently a consultant working in water cycle and environmental management and is an Honorary Principal Fellow in the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Wollongong.

**HOWARD CHARLES**

Howard is from Nimmitabel in southern NSW where he runs beef and sheep on more than 1,500 hectares. He has held a number of advisory and advocacy positions. These include community representative on the South-East Waste Board (2001–02) and member of the Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute’s Beef Industry Liaison Committee (1990–97), South-East Forests Regional Advisory Committee (1994–97), National Johne’s Disease Coordinating Committee (1993–97) and NSW Higher Education Board Course Advisory Committee for Farm Secretarial Studies and Horse Management (1976–78). Howard has also been involved with the Maclaughlin River Landcare Group, Royal Agricultural Society, Beef Improvement Association, Murray Grey Beef Cattle Society and NSW Farmers’ Association. Howard is currently Chair of Maclaughlin River Landcare Group and is a member of the Upper Snowy Landcare Committee. Since 2005, he has been a member of the NSW Agriculture Ministerial Advisory Council.

**JOHN KERIN**

John holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of New England and a Bachelor of Economics from the Australian National University. He is a Fellow of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society and the Academy of Technological Services and Engineering. John is a former Commonwealth Parliamentary Minister (1983–93) holding portfolios including Primary Industries and Energy. During this time he chaired the Murray Darling Basin Council and initiated the Ecological Development Process and Resource Assessment Commission. He chaired the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority, the Reef Management Advisory Committee, the Trawl Management Advisory Committee, the NSW State Forests, the Board of the NSW Water Advisory Council and the Premier’s Taskforce on Resource Sustainability and Farm Viability. John has been a farmer and agricultural economist with a long-term interest in research and natural resource policy. He currently sits on the Board of CSIRO, the Board of Governors of the Crawford Fund, a Technical Advisory Committee on Weed Research and Management, is Chair of the Poultry Cooperative Research Centre and a Governor of the World Wildlife Fund.

**KERRY PFEIFFER**

Kerry is a business owner/manager and company director. Kerry was a general councillor with NSW Farmers’ Association (1992–98) and chaired the Eden Region Forest Forum, Comprehensive Regional Assessment Process (1996–98), and Far South Coast...

MANDI STEVENSON
Mandi grew up in a farming family on the Monaro and ran a grazing property there with her husband and four children for 30 years until recently. They moved to Merimbula on the South Coast, where she and her husband run South-east Soil Solutions promoting biological farming systems. Mandi has tertiary qualifications in Business, Science and Systems Agriculture and has had numerous roles in Professional Agribusiness, including Landcare, the Livestock Health and Pest Authority and private consultancy. She has represented the community on NSW Farmers General Council, Monaro Exceptional Circumstances Committee, Greening Australia Board, and Monaro Rural Financial Counselling Service Committee amongst others. Mandi is currently Deputy Chair of Landcare NSW Inc., and Panboola Wetlands Advisory Committee and a member of Far South Coast Landcare Association. Mandi brings to the Southern Rivers CMA Board expertise in agriculture and corporate governance, a strong desire to promote holistic and biological farming and a passion to involve community in the decision making process.

IRIS WHITE
Iris was formerly Manager Aboriginal Education and Training for the Illawarra Institute of TAFE NSW. She is a member of the Batemans Marine Park Advisory Committee and holds a degree in Adult Education, an Executive Certificate in Managerial Skills and an Associate Diploma in Adult Education (Aboriginal). Iris is a former chairperson of the Queanbeyan Regional Council of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission and has held a variety of management and training positions with Australian and NSW government institutions. She was part of the Aboriginal Working Group for the Kosciusko National Park Plan of Management and has participated in a number of regional consultative and advisory committees. Iris is also a Justice of the Peace.

Table One - Southern Rivers CMA Board Attendance 2009-10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Actual attendance</th>
<th>Possible attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pam Green</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Muston</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard Charles</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Kerin</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerry Pfeiffer</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandi Stevenson</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iris White</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Corporate Governance
The Southern Rivers CMA Board and management are committed to excellence in corporate governance and are committed to complying with key NSW and Australian Government legislation and policy. Southern Rivers CMA’s role in implementing its statutory functions is monitored and audited by The Audit Office of NSW, regarding financial management and corporate governance, and the NRC, for the implementation of NRM functions. Internal audit functions are coordinated by the Southern Rivers CMA’s Finance and Audit Subcommittee.

Southern Rivers CMA’s governance objectives are supported by its participation in external committees that promote coordinate governance and policy development in partnership with DECCW and the 13 NSW CMAs.

Table Two - Southern Rivers CMA Board Member Terms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Tenure</th>
<th>Remuneration 2009-10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pam Green</td>
<td>Chairperson</td>
<td>30 June 2011</td>
<td>$58,939.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Muston</td>
<td>Deputy Chairperson</td>
<td>13 March 2012</td>
<td>$21,629.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard Charles</td>
<td>Board member</td>
<td>4 June 2010 (Reappointment pending)</td>
<td>$19,968.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Kerin</td>
<td>Board member</td>
<td>30 October 2011</td>
<td>$21,629.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerry Pfeiffer</td>
<td>Board member</td>
<td>30 October 2011</td>
<td>$21,629.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandi Stevenson</td>
<td>Board member</td>
<td>31 March 2012</td>
<td>$21,629.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iris White</td>
<td>Board member</td>
<td>28 February 2013</td>
<td>$21,629.86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the annual stipend, Southern Rivers CMA Board members claim reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses in accordance with NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet policy. Board members receive superannuation entitlements consistent with public sector employees.
Southern Rivers CMA Board members carry out their roles based on their identified skills. As required by the Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003 and Board practice, Southern Rivers CMA Board members are formally required to disclose any actual or perceived conflicts of interest. Conflicts of interest and pecuniary interests are recorded in Board minutes and/or Southern Rivers CMA’s Pecuniary Interests Register prior to the commencement of each Board meeting.

For Southern Rivers practising good governance means:

• clear definition of roles, responsibilities, delegations and lines of accountability in implementing strategic objectives
• systematic monitoring of performance against investor targets and goals and strategic objectives
• systematic and active management of risks
• full and timely disclosure of decisions and performance information to a broad range of stakeholders, including internal stakeholders
• assurance that staff are behaving ethically
• assurance that applicable laws, regulations and codes are being met
• assurance that key processes are operating properly and that the information used in decision-making and to report performance is accurate, timely, available and relevant.

The Southern Rivers CMA has established two subcommittees to support the Board’s governance role.

Subcommittees
The Southern Rivers CMA Board implements its statutory functions through Board member participation in Board subcommittees and working groups.

The Southern Rivers CMA Board has established the following subcommittees.

FINANCE AND AUDIT SUBCOMMITTEE
Southern Rivers CMA’s Finance and Audit Subcommittee was formed during the 2005-06 reporting year. Members of the Subcommittee include Michael Muston (Chairperson), Pam Green, Howard Charles, John Kerin, Kerry Pfeiffer, Mandi Stevenson and Iris White.

The Subcommittee met twice during the 2009-10 reporting period: 18 November 2009 and 14 April 2010.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE SUBCOMMITTEE
Southern Rivers CMA’s Risk Management Subcommittee was formed during the 2005-06 reporting year. Members of the Subcommittee include John Kerin (Chairperson), Pam Green, Howard Charles, Michael Muston, Kerry Pfeiffer, Mandi Stevenson and Iris White.

The Subcommittee met three times during the 2009-10 reporting period: 19 August 2009, 17 March 2010 and 24 June 2010.

Southern Rivers CMA has developed and adopted a policy for governance and interaction between the board and staff to provide clear areas of responsibility and lines of accountability to preserve the distinction between the Southern Rivers CMA board (strategic) and staff (operations).

Performance Assessment of Southern Rivers CMA Board
The Southern Rivers CMA Chairperson’s role and function is directed by the CMA’s corporate governance guidelines and the terms of the Chairperson’s appointment. The Chairperson’s performance in executing the role is assessed individually by Board members and analysed as a collective. The performance of Southern Rivers CMA Board members is assessed by the Chairperson using similar criteria. The outcomes of these assessments are used to inform and plan Board professional training and development needs, improve Board performance and effectiveness, and improve strategic operational outcomes.

At the request of Southern Rivers CMA, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu (Deloitte) performed an Independent Performance Assessment of the Southern Rivers CMA Chairperson, Pam Green and Southern Rivers CMA Board during 2008-09. The Performance Assessment Report was delivered by Deloittes in early 2009. The Deloitte assessment separately considered the performance of the Southern Rivers CMA Chairperson in accordance with the Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003 and in relation to the Chairperson’s roles and responsibilities. The results of the Deloitte assessment were used to inform Southern Rivers CMA’s internal performance assessment process.

During 2009-10, all Southern Rivers CMA Board members’ completed a performance review with the Chairperson. These were received and accepted by the Board at its meeting in May 2010. A performance review for the Southern Rivers CMA Chairperson was commenced in 2010 and will be completed later in the year.
Southern Rivers CMA’s General Manager, Noel Kesby heads a team of professional staff including 22 permanent staff and 38 contract project staff to deliver services to communities across the Southern Rivers region.

Southern Rivers CMA Executive
Southern Rivers CMA’s Executive team meets monthly to plan, coordinate and lead the business of the organisation. General Manager, Noel Kesby is responsible for the day-to-day operations of Southern Rivers CMA and reports directly to the Southern Rivers CMA Board. Three line managers support the General Manager and contribute to the management of Southern Rivers CMA’s operations: Brett Miners, Landscape Manager (Snowy/South Coast), Chris Presland, Landscape Manager (Shoalhaven/Illawarra) and Eileen O’Sullivan, Business Manager.

Remuneration and Performance Assessment of Southern Rivers CMA General Manager
The position of General Manager is graded at Senior Officer Grade 1. The General Manager’s remuneration package for 2009-10 was $138,129.

The Southern Rivers CMA, Chairperson reviews the General Manager’s performance annually, or as determined by the Southern Rivers CMA Board, by assessing organisational and personal performance against key accountabilities, result areas and outcomes.

Organisational structure
Southern Rivers CMA’s initial organisational structure was established in 2004, after negotiation with the then NSW Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources. The CMA adopted a “landscape model” organisation structure with 44 staff being organised within two geographical areas (Snowy/South Coast or Shoalhaven/Illawarra) and led by a Landscape Manager. A Catchment Coordinator (Snowy/South Coast, based at Bega office and Shoalhaven/Illawarra, based at Wollongong office) reported to each Landscape Manager. At this time Catchment Coordinators were not assigned staff management responsibilities. This structure facilitated the delivery of integrated NRM projects to local communities by a geographically based team.

In 2007, an additional Catchment Coordinator position was established at Braidwood office to focus on native vegetation management. This position
took on line management responsibilities for native vegetation consent staff. By 2007, Southern Rivers CMA had a total of 60 staff. During this period of growth, line management responsibilities remained with Landscape Managers who directly managed up to 30 staff at times. With this structure it was difficult for Landscape Managers to provide an adequate level of direction, guidance and support to staff.

In late 2008, the Southern Rivers CMA Executive established an additional Catchment Coordinator position at Batemans Bay office. The addition of this fourth Catchment Coordinator provided the organisation with an opportunity to address some management inefficiencies.

During 2009, the Southern Rivers CMA Executive considered new line management arrangements needed to provide:

1. Appropriate level of management support for staff, including improved communications, support for work plan implementation, and greater availability of managers for staff support.
2. Improved capacity to manage proactively and meet strategic priorities, including increased focus on strategic planning, investment attraction and partnership development.
3. Effective delivery of projects at sub-regional scale, continuing to implement projects that achieve multiple outcomes with a targeted client group(s) within a sub-region.
4. Effective management of programs at a regional scale, continuing to manage at a regional scale to meet Board, government and investor requirements.
5. Organisational capacity to manage core business obligations, implementation of the Native Vegetation Act (2003) and promoting effective catchment management as defined in the Catchment Management Authorities Act (2003).
6. Clear roles and responsibilities for Executive team.

At its meeting in October 2009, the Southern Rivers CMA Executive reviewed and recommended changes to the organisation’s line management. In November 2009, an outline of the proposed line management changes were forwarded to Southern Rivers CMA staff for comment. These comments were collated and carefully reviewed by the Executive team in December 2009.

After careful consideration the Executive agreed upon the following proposed line management arrangements which were implemented in February 2010:

1. Catchment Coordinator, Bega to manage Cooma and Bega office teams and sub-regions.
2. Catchment Coordinator, Braidwood to manage Braidwood office team, sub-region and native vegetation team.
3. Catchment Coordinator, Wollongong to manage Wollongong and Nowra office teams and sub-regions.
4. Catchment Coordinator, Batemans Bay to manage Batemans Bay office team, sub-region, the Monitoring and Evaluation Office and GIS officers, coordinate Southern Rivers CMA program teams and manage monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement and the CAP reviews.
5. Office administration and coordination to be delegated to a Catchment Officer (Grade 7/8) in each office and rotated on a 12 month basis.

The new line management arrangements will be the subject of a review after six months in August 2010, to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the new approach and to make any necessary adjustments to roles, responsibilities and/or workloads.

**Figure Two - Southern Rivers CMA Management Structure**
Personnel Policies and Practices

The Southern Rivers CMA Board tasks the General Manager with the operation of the organisation. The General Manager has responsibility for staff in terms of daily operations and accountabilities, however under the requirements of the Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002, staff are hosted by DECCW and therefore, under common NSW Government industrial awards and policy provisions.

All industrial and human resources policy and issues are managed for Southern Rivers CMA by DECCW under the Service Level Agreement for Shared Corporate Services for NSW CMAs. Payroll administration, recruitment advertising, leave and other related activities are managed by Service First - Government Services.

As host employer of Southern Rivers CMA, DECCW’s personnel policies and practices extend to CMA staff. These policies and practices include:

- Industrial Relations
- Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO)
- Disability Planning
- Multicultural Policies and Services Program (formerly Ethnic Affairs Priorities Statement)
- Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S).

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Southern Rivers CMA is an equal opportunity employer and values gender balance and cultural diversity in the workplace. EEO is an integral component of Southern Rivers CMA’s recruitment, business and organisational culture. Southern Rivers CMA maintains the NSW Government’s EEO policy which aims to achieve fair practices and behaviour in the workplace, including:

- recruitment, selection, and promotion practices
- access for all employees to training and development opportunities
- flexible working arrangements
- grievance handling procedures
- communication procedures for access to information
- unbiased management decision making
- respect for the cultural backgrounds of all employees and stakeholders
- a workplace free from any form of harassment.

During 2009-10 Southern Rivers CMA employed four Aboriginal staff. All staff are provided with opportunities for learning and development.

Table three provides a summary of staff employed by Southern Rivers CMA as at 30 June 2010 and a comparison of the previous reporting periods for 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09.

Table Four - Southern Rivers CMA Staff Identifying as Aboriginal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Salary Grade</th>
<th>2009-10</th>
<th>2008-09</th>
<th>2007-08</th>
<th>2006-07</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clerk 4/5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clerk 7/8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DISABILITY PLAN

Southern Rivers CMA supports the NSW Government’s vision for disability action planning, that is, people with a disability in NSW are able to access government services, facilities and jobs on an equitable basis through the delivery of better services that promote fairness and opportunity. Southern Rivers CMA recognises that people with disabilities are valued members of the community and the legal rights of people with disabilities will be recognised and protected.

Under the NSW Disability Services Act 1993, all state agencies must have a Disability Action Plan that sets out how they will make their services and their employment opportunities accessible to people with disabilities. During 2010-11 Southern Rivers CMA will undertake a review of Disability Action Plans in consultation with DECCW and other NSW government agencies and partners to assess the organisation’s provision of appropriate employment opportunities and access to information, services and office facilities.
NSW GOVERNMENT ACTION PLAN FOR WOMEN

Southern Rivers CMA supports the NSW Government’s commitment to building an equitable, inclusive and safe society where all women are valued and respected, can contribute meaningfully, and are able to enjoy the rights, freedoms and protection to which everyone in NSW is entitled. The NSW Government’s Action Plan for Women provides a tool for coordinating strategies to remove barriers to participation of women across all NSW Government agencies. It covers initiatives such as fair access to work and good work practices and facilitating female participation in decision making and leadership.

As at 30 June 2010, three of the seven Southern Rivers CMA board members were women, three of the eight senior staff were women, and from a total of 60 Southern Rivers CMA staff, 31 were women working in full and part-time positions.

### Table Five - Southern Rivers CMA Staff Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Salary Scale/Grade</th>
<th>2009-10 Total Staff</th>
<th>2008-09 Total Staff</th>
<th>2007-08 Total Staff</th>
<th>2006-07 Total Staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salary Equivalent to Clerk 2/3</td>
<td>5 Male 0 Female</td>
<td>4 Male 0 Female</td>
<td>3 Male 0 Female</td>
<td>2 Male 0 Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salary Equivalent to Clerk 4/5</td>
<td>9 Male 6 Female</td>
<td>9 Male 6 Female</td>
<td>13 Male 8 Female</td>
<td>15 Male 10 Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salary Equivalent to Clerk 6/7</td>
<td>0 Male 0 Female</td>
<td>4 Male 0 Female</td>
<td>3 Male 0 Female</td>
<td>19 Male 16 Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salary Equivalent to Clerk 7/8</td>
<td>37 Male 17 Female</td>
<td>30 Male 15 Female</td>
<td>30 Male 17 Female</td>
<td>16 Male 0 Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salary Equivalent to Clerk 9/10</td>
<td>4 Male 2 Female</td>
<td>3 Male 2 Female</td>
<td>3 Male 2 Female</td>
<td>3 Male 2 Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salary Equivalent to Clerk 10/11</td>
<td>1 Male 0 Female</td>
<td>1 Male 0 Female</td>
<td>1 Male 0 Female</td>
<td>1 Male 0 Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salary Equivalent to Clerk 11/12</td>
<td>2 Male 2 Female</td>
<td>2 Male 2 Female</td>
<td>2 Male 2 Female</td>
<td>2 Male 2 Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPO Grade 2</td>
<td>1 Male 1 Female</td>
<td>1 Male 1 Female</td>
<td>1 Male 1 Female</td>
<td>1 Male 1 Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salary Equivalent Senior Officer 1</td>
<td>1 Male 1 Female</td>
<td>1 Male 1 Female</td>
<td>1 Male 1 Female</td>
<td>1 Male 1 Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>60 Male 29 Female</td>
<td>55 Male 27 Female</td>
<td>57 Male 31 Female</td>
<td>60 Male 33 Female</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table Six - Representation of Women on Southern Rivers CMA Board 2009-10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All Members</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chairperson</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board members</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Image: Southern Rivers CMA’s Biodiversity Officer, Michael Andrews assesses a patch of endangered Illawarra lowlands grassy woodlands near Dapto.

Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority
Annual Report 2009/10 - 21
MULTICULTURAL POLICIES AND SERVICES PROGRAM

Southern Rivers CMA is committed to the principles of the NSW Government’s Multicultural Policies and Services Program. Southern Rivers CMA encourages cultural diversity and community participation in activities that support diversity. The organisation aims to ensure that all people regardless of their linguistic, racial, cultural or religious background have full access to appropriate service provision. Multiculturalism is a consideration when Southern Rivers CMA undertakes planning for consultation programs. Southern Rivers CMA staff are provided with training opportunities on issues of cultural diversity.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Southern Rivers CMA is committed to providing a safe, healthy work environment for its Board members, employees, volunteers, visitors and contractors in compliance with current legislation. Southern Rivers CMA has established an OH&S Committee with six employee elected representatives who meet quarterly. The Committee operates under DECCW’s OH&S Risk Management System. It is responsible for identifying OH&S issues, developing and monitoring safe work practices and systems, responding to staff safety concerns, promoting available training and information on the risks of all employees’ activities and raising awareness of safety rules and regulations.

OH&S is an integral part of the quality of the products and services of Southern Rivers CMA. Southern Rivers CMA field staff are supplied with satellite phones, emergency position indicating radio beacon and mobile phones.

WORKERS’ COMPENSATION, ACCIDENTS AND INJURIES

During 2009-10 there were no Workers’ Compensation claims made. This is consistent with the reporting period for 2008-09. One minor injury was sustained by a Southern Rivers CMA staff member as a result of an insect bite and subsequent allergic reaction. Five incidents were reported by CMA staff. Three of these involved staff encountering kangaroos while driving, with minor damage to fleet and personal vehicles.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Effective risk management is a core management requirement and is considered at all levels of Southern Rivers CMA operations, in the normal course of all activities. Southern Rivers CMA’s Risk Management subcommittee was formed during the 2005-06 reporting year. The subcommittee met three times in 2009-10 in accordance with its internal audit function. Members of the subcommittee include Southern Rivers CMA Board Members: John Kerin (Chairperson), Pam Green, Howard Charles, Michael Muston, Kerry Pfeiffer, Mandi Stevenson and Iris White.

An external risk management auditor was commissioned to conduct reviews of all NSW CMAs in August 2005. Deloitte Consulting was engaged to undertake a risk assessment and to progress risk management plans. During 2005-06 Southern Rivers CMA commenced implementing the actions from the risk management report produced by Deloitte Consulting at the conclusion of the review process.

During 2006-07 the Southern Rivers CMA Risk Management subcommittee identified and began addressing the organisation’s risk priorities. The top 10 areas of risk were identified and a comprehensive risk management plan was developed together with a business continuity plan. During 2009-10 Southern Rivers CMA undertook an internal review of the top 10 areas of risk, to determine their continuing priority and relevance to the organisation. The Southern Rivers CMA Board reviewed the strategies to mitigate risk.

The number one Southern Rivers CMA risk has been identified as: staff being injured or killed due to excessive travel. Accordingly, during 2009-10 all Southern Rivers CMA Board members and staff required to drive fleet vehicles completed a defensive driving course.

During 2009-10 Southern Rivers CMA participated in the NSW Treasury Managed Funds self-insurance scheme that provides workers compensation, legal liability and motor vehicle, property and miscellaneous insurance coverage. One of the conditions of this insurance coverage is a requirement to place a high priority on the implementation of sound risk management practices.
The strong performance of Southern Rivers CMA during 2009-10 was achieved through effective planning, management and engagement with communities and stakeholders. This produced positive NRM outcomes aimed at protecting and enhancing the health of the Southern Rivers catchments.

Southern Rivers CMA manages projects that deliver outcomes under multiple theme or program areas. For example a project such as the a Bega dairy farm project, while funded under the Soil and Land Capability program would deliver outcomes for the Water program.

The following outlines Southern Rivers CMA’s successes and performance highlights during 2009-10.

Community and Partnership Program
- 215 groups supported
- 607 landholders were supported in addition to the groups

Biodiversity
- 931 hectares of terrestrial native vegetation enhanced/rehabilitated
- 101 hectares of wetland native vegetation protected by fencing
- 5,173 hectares of pest plant control measures implemented
- 5,219 hectares of pest animal control (vertebrates) measures implemented

Soil and Land Capability Program
- 242 hectares of land treated for soil erosion via engineering works
- 4,253 hectares of pasture managed to improve soil health
- 6,310 tonnes of animal effluent stored by control works

Water Program
- 845 hectares of voluntary management agreements negotiated to improve NRM outcomes, with over 1,700 hectares of land having works implemented in total
- 235 hectares of riparian native vegetation improved
- 974 hectares of pest plant control carried out

Coastal and Marine Program
- 718 hectares of pest plant control implemented
- actions implemented from 18 estuary management plans and on 29 NRM plans.

2009 NSW Landcare Award
Southern Rivers CMA was awarded the Australian Government Landcare Natural Resource Management Body award at the NSW Landcare Awards ceremony in September 2009.

The award recognises Southern Rivers CMA’s outstanding performance in collaborating with its Landcare partners and the community at large to protect, repair and improve urban, rural and coastal environments.

The award is a result of Southern Rivers CMA’s staff dedication and willingness to work in partnership with groups including farmers and other land managers, Aboriginal people, local government and industry to protect bushland and restore natural resources across the landscape.

Southern Rivers CMA has worked closely with its partners since its inception in 2004. The award acknowledges the importance of building strong relationships and working with community groups to achieve good environmental outcomes.

Image: (left to right) Noel Kesby, General Manager; Mandi Stevenson, Board Member, and Pam Green, Chairperson, accept the 2009 NSW Landcare Award on behalf of Southern Rivers CMA. Image courtesy of Hydro Photographics.
Southern Rivers CMA receives recurrent funding from the NSW Government to meet its operational needs. During 2009-10 Southern Rivers CMA was also provided with investment funds from the NSW Government (Catchment Action NSW) and the Australian Government (Caring for our Country). Throughout the year Southern Rivers CMA developed strong partnerships with local communities and was able to secure additional funds to address local NRM issues. During 2009-10 Southern Rivers CMA’s investment program directly addressed 10 of the 13 state-wide targets within E4, with investment aimed towards the highest priority management targets and actions within Southern Rivers CMA’s CAP. These targets included:

**State-wide Target 1**
An increase in native vegetation extent and an improvement in native vegetation condition.

**State-wide Target 3**
An increase in the recovery of threatened species, populations and ecological communities.

**State-wide Target 4**
A reduction in the impact of invasive species.

**State-wide Target 5**
An improvement in the condition of riverine ecosystems.

**State-wide Target 8**
An improvement in the condition of important wetlands, and the extent of those wetlands is maintained.

**State-wide Target 9**
An improvement in the condition of estuaries and coastal lake ecosystems.

**State-wide Target 10**
An improvement in soil condition.

**State-wide Target 11**
An increase of the area of land that is managed within its capability.

**State-wide Target 12**
Natural resource decisions contribute to improving or maintaining economic sustainability and social well-being.

**State-wide Target 13**
An increase in the capacity of natural resource managers to contribute to regionally relevant NRM.

Southern Rivers CMA’s investment program addressed all but one of the known national priorities, that is NRM in remote and northern Australia. Investment of Australian Government funding was targeted towards CAP catchment and management targets which best reflected the five relevant national priorities.

Further, Southern Rivers CMA’s investment program contributed to environmental, economic and social values by targeting investment towards regionally significant industries which underpin the regional economy. Natural and cultural values are protected and enhanced to ensure the nature-based tourism resource base continues to support the extensive tourism industry which is a major contributor to the regional economy.
Investment during 2009-10 was directed to the four programs in line with state targets - Community and Partnerships, Biodiversity, Soil and Land Capability and Water (incorporating Coastal and Marine), and more specifically toward:

- achieving biodiversity outcomes under the state priorities and Caring for our Country business plan
- supporting sustainable landuse with dairy and tableland grazing industries, particularly through uniform adoption of new skills

• engaging and supporting coastal community groups to improve the health of wetlands and estuaries
• rehabilitating rivers identified as priorities in Southern Rivers CMA’s CAP and sub-regional NRM Action Plans
• undertaking weed control works to protect biodiversity and agricultural sustainability.

Investment income received for each of the four program areas is shown in the figures seven and eight below.

Figure Seven - Southern Rivers CMA Investment Income Received for 2009-10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Community and Partnerships</th>
<th>Biodiversity</th>
<th>Soil and Land Capability</th>
<th>Water</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caring for our Country</td>
<td>$556,000</td>
<td>$1,488,064</td>
<td>$351,000</td>
<td>$444,000</td>
<td>$2,839,064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catchment Action NSW</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$230,000</td>
<td>$182,001</td>
<td>$1,009,935</td>
<td>$1,421,936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$794,751</td>
<td>$285,668</td>
<td>$653,331</td>
<td>$1,041,599</td>
<td>$2,775,349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$1,350,751</td>
<td>$2,003,732</td>
<td>$1,186,332</td>
<td>$2,495,534</td>
<td>$7,036,349</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure Eight - Southern Rivers CMA Investment Expenditure Incurred for 2009-10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Community and Partnerships</th>
<th>Biodiversity</th>
<th>Soil and Land Capability</th>
<th>Water</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caring for our Country</td>
<td>$556,000</td>
<td>$1,488,064</td>
<td>$351,000</td>
<td>$444,000</td>
<td>$2,839,064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catchment Action NSW</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$230,000</td>
<td>$182,001</td>
<td>$1,009,935</td>
<td>$1,421,936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$888,609</td>
<td>$440,530</td>
<td>$678,119</td>
<td>$1,028,621</td>
<td>$3,035,879</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$1,444,609</td>
<td>$2,158,594</td>
<td>$1,211,121</td>
<td>$2,482,556</td>
<td>$7,296,879</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Southern Rivers CMA recognises the importance of supporting and investing in quality engagement that builds the community’s capacity to deliver sustainable NRM. The intent of Southern Rivers CMA’s Community and Partnership program is to form meaningful, long-term partnerships with industry, government and community organisations, including Landcare and Aboriginal groups.

Community support for, and participation in, sustainable NRM is the foundation of the delivery of the Southern Rivers CMA’s CAP. Change on the ground requires individuals, groups and organisations to involve themselves in bringing about improvements to biodiversity, soils and land, water and coastal resources.

During 2009-10 Southern Rivers CMA’s Engagement and Partnership Strategy continued to be implemented. A key component of the strategy is to hold regular sub-regional NRM stakeholder forums. The Illawarra, Upper Shoalhaven and Shoalhaven NRM Reference groups and the Local Management Teams in the Eurobodalla, Bega and Snowy Monaro sub-regions met regularly to discuss NRM priorities and discuss the progress of projects.

Generally, each forum has representatives from local government, NSW NRM agencies and Landcare networks. The Illawarra group prepared an NRM Action Plan which translates the CAP targets into an action agenda for the Illawarra sub-region.

Natural Resource Management Benchmarking

A series of sub-regional workshops were held with NRM stakeholders to interpret and develop actions in response to the baseline surveys undertaken with 2,000 rural landholders across the region.

An Action Plan was then developed which laid out a set of themes to better deliver NRM. The key themes were:

- A stronger emphasis on “place-based” action to generate a critical mass of landholders who can address issues of concern to them.
- A finer grained intervention to be given to the bottom-up approach to engaging and addressing the needs of landholders, within a place-based framework.
- To develop a program to target absentee landholders and more understanding of the small farm sector in relation to practice change.
- To strengthen partnerships with stakeholder organisations to improve service delivery to landholders. At a regional level to better coordinate partnership arrangements and the exchange of information.
- A more coordinated approach to communication with landholders and Landcare networks across organisations.
- Support for the formation of syndicates of landholders to control pest animal.
- Southern Rivers CMA support for weed management was often an entry point for...
landholders but the narrow targeting of investor funds does not strongly support a place-based approach.

- Soil erosion issues on properties has a low profile, such that this may be best approached as part of a “package” focussing on sustainable land management practices.

NRM projects developed in each sub-region responded to these themes and commenced implementation in early 2010.

**Industry Partnerships**

Partnerships with the dairy industry on the coast and the grazing industry on the Monaro continue through the joint delivery of large-scale projects. Working with Bega Cheese and the Illawarra and Highlands Dairy Industry Group, Southern Rivers CMA is delivering on-farm improvements in nutrient and effluent management and protecting valuable wetlands and riparian areas.

On the Monaro, sheep and cattle graziers are working with the Cooma Monaro, Snowy River and Bombala Shire Councils, Southern Rivers CMA and agronomic and grassland specialists, to continue to implement projects to manage native grasses for productivity and conservation. Southern Rivers CMA continued to provide support for a capacity building initiative that assists a group of graziers (Monaro Farming Systems) to undertake research and development to underpin the evolution of profitable farming systems in the challenging natural, economic and social environment of the Monaro.

Coastal and marine issues are given strategic focus through Southern Rivers CMA’s Coast and Marine Working Group, which provides a regular forum for marine and coastal stakeholders to meet. This group includes government, industry, community, research and educational representatives.

Partnerships with local oyster growers who farm at Tuross Lakes, Wagonga Inlet, Wapengo Lake, Merimbula Lake, Shoalhaven/Crookhaven estuaries and the Clyde River continued. The Clyde River growers have an Environmental Management System (EMS) in place and Southern Rivers CMA is providing assistance to implement projects to improve water quality. Local Aboriginal Land Councils are assisting in the control of the Pacific oyster and in foreshore erosion control projects. This is providing employment opportunities for local Aboriginal people in NRM.

**Partnerships with Landcare, Aboriginal and other community organisations**

Partnerships with the seven District Landcare Associations (DLAs) across the region, to provide support to local groups and to implement on-ground works, continued during the reporting period.

Southern Rivers CMA and South East Landcare (the regional Landcare body) developed a communication strategy which aims to showcase Landcare projects and success stories from across the region and enhance communication across the Landcare community. The Champions of the Catchment Awards were held to recognise and celebrate individual and group achievements in NRM - a major initiative of the strategy. South East Landcare and Southern Rivers CMA joined together to award the category winners at a workshop held at Braidwood. Training opportunities in digital storytelling were also supported and led to a number of short films made by Landcare volunteers and published on websites.

A team of locally based Aboriginal support staff are employed by Southern Rivers CMA to establish relationships with Local Aboriginal Land Councils, Aboriginal Elders groups, Traditional Owners groups, Aboriginal corporations and other groups. Staff worked with groups to develop proposals to protect cultural heritage and provide employment opportunities for local Aboriginal people.

Southern Rivers CMA and Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) continued to work collaboratively to deliver:

- Landcare community support services to the Illawarra community
- Green Jobs Corp support for Landcare and Aboriginal groups in the Illawarra.

Partnerships with community organisations to provide marine and coastal education continue. This includes support for marine monitoring and educational initiatives conducted by the Sapphire Coast Marine Discovery Centre and the Nature Coast Marine Group.
Southern Rivers CMA’s Community Support Program aims to develop robust Landcare groups and peer support networks that can undertake on-ground works, raise awareness of local environmental issues and build their own capacity for NRM. It also supports and encourages individual landholders, who are not part of a group or network, to undertake NRM improvements or adopt more sustainable practices. A team of Aboriginal support staff is supporting local Aboriginal communities and groups to participate in NRM more effectively.

The core element of this program is a team of ten community support officers located across the Southern Rivers region to deliver support at a local level.

These positions are:
1. Eurobodalla Landcare Community Support Officer*
2. Illawarra Landcare Community Support Officer*
3. Far South Coast Landcare Coordinator
4. Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Coordinator
5. Snowy Interstate Landcare Coordinator (2.5 days)*
6. Upper Snowy Landcare Coordinator
7. Lower Shoalhaven Landcare Coordinator
8. Land Management Officer (Small Farms and Rural Living)*
9. Landcare Project Officer (Wollongong, three days)
10. Aboriginal Community Support Officer (Shoalhaven)
11. Aboriginal Community Support Officer (Eurobodalla)
12. Aboriginal Community Support Officer (Snowy/South Coast)

* Denotes officers hosted by organisations external to Southern Rivers CMA.

Performance against CAP targets

Data on program achievements can change significantly between years depending upon where funding for projects is allocated, the types of works completed and investor priorities. Some data collection methodologies have changed over time due to the addition of new data collection protocols. Data collection processes within Southern Rivers CMA were notably different for this financial year resulting in inconsistent data between years. Additional data has had to be collected in order to meet Australian Government reporting requirements. Funding for some on-ground NRM activities was reduced during the 2009-10 year.
Community and partnerships management target C1 – engagement
From 2006 the willingness of communities to engage in NRM and the quality of that engagement will be enhanced, with the number of people working collaboratively maintained or increased.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CB5.1</th>
<th>Total number of groups supported</th>
<th>406</th>
<th>215</th>
<th>No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total number of landholders or individuals supported</td>
<td>915</td>
<td>607</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Community and partnerships management target C2 – community support
From 2006 the support system that resources local communities to contribute to NRM will be improved.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CB2.1</th>
<th>Number of training sessions, workshops, seminars or other skills and training events</th>
<th>105</th>
<th>53</th>
<th>No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CB2.2</td>
<td>Number of workbooks, course notes or other key materials developed</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CB1.1</td>
<td>Number of awareness raising events such a demonstrations, field days or study tours</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CB1.2</td>
<td>Number of written products such as brochures, newsletters, posters or fact sheets</td>
<td>584</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CB1.3</td>
<td>Number of displays developed for use at events such as regional meetings</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CB1.4</td>
<td>Number of media opportunities resulting in articles in newspapers or radio or TV</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CB1.5</td>
<td>Number of training sessions, workshops, seminars or other skills and training events</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CB1.6</td>
<td>Number of workbooks, course notes or other key materials developed</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CB1.7</td>
<td>Number of awareness raising events such a demonstrations, field days or study tours</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CB1.8</td>
<td>Number of written products such as brochures, newsletters, posters or fact sheets</td>
<td>584</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CB1.9</td>
<td>Number of displays developed for use at events such as regional meetings</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CB1.10</td>
<td>Number of media opportunities resulting in articles in newspapers or radio or TV</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Community and partnerships management target C3 – Caring for Country
From 2006 indigenous communities will be better engaged in NRM planning and resources and opportunities to “Care for Country” are increased.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CB3.1</th>
<th>Number of Aboriginal Community Support Officers and Aboriginal Catchment Officer</th>
<th>2.5</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CB3.2</td>
<td>Number of Aboriginal support projects</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CB3.3</td>
<td>Number of Aboriginal Land Councils supported (12 Land Councils and 1 Aboriginal Council)</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CB3.4</td>
<td>Support provided to Aboriginal Community groups include: Elders, mens, womens, youth, health groups, community centres</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CB3.5</td>
<td>Support provided to Southern Rivers CMA staff in relation to Aboriginal programs and issues</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Community and partnerships management target C4 – Capacity and Practices
By 2016 there will be an increase in community awareness, knowledge and skills in relation to NRM and an increase in the adoption of practices that improve natural resource outcomes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CB4.1</th>
<th>Southern Rivers CMA keeps a database which records adoption of on-ground works. Most of these have been recorded against the other four biophysical management targets.</th>
<th>-</th>
<th>-</th>
<th>-</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CB4.2</td>
<td>Dr Mark Fenton has completed a social benchmarking project. This project will help develop indicators for the Community and Partnership Program on which to measure progress.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Community and partnerships management target C5 – Social and Economic
By 2016 an effective mix of incentives, regulation, education and community support programs will be in place to achieve the biophysical targets of the CAP.

| CB5.1 | Number of projects and programs which have been audited or evaluated | 4 | 2 | No. |
Case studies

NSW FAR SOUTH COAST LAND AND SEA COUNTRY PLANNING INITIATIVE

The NSW Far South Coast Land and Sea Country Initiative was developed in response to the need to develop an integrated land management plan which represented the interests and opportunities of Aboriginal communities. The project was undertaken as a pilot project and has the dual benefits of delivering a comprehensive directive plan and understanding the best process for implementing a similar project in other areas or at a larger scale.

A research team was engaged by Southern Rivers CMA and included environmental and cultural skill bases. The planning process included a desktop analysis of existing plans and agreements relevant to the area covered by the Eden Local Aboriginal Land Council region. The results of the analysis were checked via the Aboriginal community and stakeholder consultation. A plan has been produced which is representative of Aboriginal priorities.

Project results:
- The project has developed and produced a plan which represents the aspirations and future direction of Aboriginal Communities and will build capacity to participate and deliver cultural and NRM outcomes.
- The plan has pulled together and updated progress towards commitments which have been made to Aboriginal communities via a diverse range of Australian, NSW and Local Government processing over the past 20 years.
- The Land and Sea Country Plan Steering Committee has been formalised and has the direction to support the implementation of the Land and Sea Country Plan as a method of building capacity for Aboriginal community groups.
- Southern Rivers CMA has entered into a contractual arrangement with the Eden Local Aboriginal Land Council to host a Land and Sea Country Coordinator. The position has the clear objective to assist in the implementation of the Land and Sea Country Plan.

Project insights:
- To maximise the time for collection of information through consultation because this activity provided highly relevant information, especially from those with a local on-ground perspective.
- Scope of the plan should correlate with natural features, such as a regional catchment zone, rather than a statutory boundary.
- More time needs to be allocated to community input and partnership building to increase confidence of the Aboriginal people in the plan.
- Enthusiastic support of key state agencies is critical to overcome issues of the past and engender confidence of Aboriginal communities that the plan will be effectively implemented.

Project challenges:
- There was an underestimation regarding the time required to fully develop robust relationships and partnerships with stakeholders.
- The development of a comprehensive map of Aboriginal owned land proved to be significantly problematic, with issues of efficiency, data discrepancy and data access.

The plan provides sufficient structural planning for the Aboriginal community to use this plan as a tool to attract investment. This will then lead to increased participation in NRM and the Aboriginal community developing autonomous enterprise.

Southern Rivers CMA will continue work with the Eden Local Aboriginal Land Council, the broader Aboriginal community and related stakeholders to implement action and strategies outlined within the plan.

The highest priority for all participants in the plan is the development and implementation of a sustainable model for Community Land and Sea Country Rangers, who will implement many of the priority actions of the plan.

Partners: Eden Local Aboriginal Land Council, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), State Forests and Bega Valley Shire Council

Funding: Australian Government’s Caring for our Country initiative and NSW Government

Project value: $53,263

FAR SOUTH COAST LANDCARE ASSOCIATION INC.

The Far South Coast Landcare Association Inc (FSCLA) is a regional group with a current membership of 16 people which has been operating for 12 years. The FSCLA represents Landcare within the Southern Rivers region and supports individuals and groups undertaking NRM works, initiates and implements regional projects, provides training and education events, and raises awareness of Landcare within the region.

The FSCLA’s purpose is to empower, encourage and engage communities to advance the practice of resilient and sustainable land management. Its
approach of “education with action” provides the greatest chance of community engagement.

The FSCLA employs three part-time project officers who work on a variety of projects:

Far South Coast Seedbank – a native species seed bank that collects, stores, distributes and sells local native seed from a variety of trees, shrubs, grasses and forbs. The Seedbank has been operating for 11 years and continues to be the only large scale native seed storage in the region. The FSCLA recognise the importance of maintaining genetic integrity within local revegetation projects.

Healthy Soils – Healthy Farms Project – a three year project that is focused on trialling and demonstrating soil management techniques that improve soil biodiversity and carbon levels. The aim of the project is to show the value of “non-traditional” soil improvement methods (worm leachate, compost tea, mineral fertilisers) and to engage landholders in understanding and managing their soils better. The FSCLA recognise the importance of improving soil health as the basis for productive and sustainable landscapes.

The FSCLA provides support to 15 “care” groups, representing over 150 people, who are working in the areas of:

• sustainable land management
• coastal weed control
• river and creek restoration
• conservation of native bush
• wetland restoration and protection.

Over the past seven years the FSCLA has also supported more than 80 individual landholders to implement small scale projects involving:

• riparian revegetation
• fencing for better grazing management
• woody weed control
• gully and creek bank erosion works
• pest animal control.

Project results:
The work undertaken by the FSCLA over the past 12 years has resulted in a noticeable increase in the level of awareness and understanding of good land management amongst farmers. This is evident from the word-of-mouth advertising and the increasing and diverse attendance at educational events. The demand for project support and information is growing which is evident from an increase in enquiries and repeat requests from previous project recipients. An increase in on-ground works is evident through the extent and variety of projects which have been implemented. This is a direct result of incentive funding which the FSCLA has delivered.

Project challenges:

• attracting volunteers to share the work load
• attracting funding that is focused on desired outcomes

• allowing the time needed to maintain relationships with landholders and groups
• meeting a diverse range of needs within the community with limited resources
• meeting the ever increasing demand from individual landholders.

Project insights:

• ensure that projects are in line with the overall direction of the organisation
• take time to plan well
• take time to provide ongoing support to landholders undertaking projects
• find out what is important to people and what support they need
• ensure meetings and events are interesting and engaging – have some fun!

The FSCLA is going from strength to strength and will continue to focus on delivering innovative projects that focus on increasing the uptake of holistic approaches to managing land. The group has recently undertaken Holistic Management Planning to direct their future decisions and to ensure future projects are targeted on priority areas.


Funding: Australian Government’s National Landcare Program and Caring for our Country initiative, NSW Government’s Environmental Trust and Envirofund, and Bushcare.

Project value: Over $500,000 (10 years)
COASTAL COMMUNITY GROUP SUPPORT - VARIETY IS THE SPICE OF LIFE

The Southern Rivers CMA region encompasses over 500 kilometres of spectacular coastline with 76 estuaries and coastal lakes. Within the coastal strip diverse landscapes, ecosystems, land uses and tenure exist. Southern Rivers CMA supports 64 coastal community groups with varied interests, passions and issues. From Pacific Ocean pests to dune days, from wetland workers to oyster growers, the variety of issues and groups that pepper the Southern Rivers CMA coastline is provided in the following CMA projects.

Pacifi c Pests

Capable of reproducing at ten times the rate of locally produced Sydney rock oysters, Pacifi c oysters pose a signifi cant threat to the South Coast Sydney rock oyster industry and local estuarine ecology. Pacifi c oysters compete with native oysters and modify native habitat. When a signifi cant outbreak was detected within three South Coast estuaries three years ago, it was recognised that a rapid and cooperative management intervention program was an imperative to mitigate the potential for widespread economic and environmental repercussions.

Southern Rivers CMA Coastal Catchment Offi cers were pivotal in bringing together local oyster growers with Local Aboriginal Land Councils, I&I NSW, Batemans Marine Park Authority and volunteers to undertake removal of the pest in Wagonga Inlet, Clyde River and Pambula Lake. Over 35,000 Pacifi c Oysters have been controlled which will lead to a signifi cant reduction in the size of future spawning events.

Communities and Catchments

Pambula Lake supports a number of activities that are dependent on the ongoing maintenance or improvement of water quality, including aquaculture, commercial and recreational fi shing. It also contains Aboriginal heritage sites and internationally signifi cant wetlands.

Pambula Estuary and Catchment group, Pambula oyster growers, Pambula Wetlands and Heritage Committee, and Bega Valley Shire Council partnered with Southern Rivers CMA to develop a community-based monitoring regime designed to:

• link the Pambula community with the catchment
• increase awareness of the downstream impacts of land management practices, and help prioritise rehabilitation work
• improve understanding of estuarine processes
• evaluate long-term water quality changes
• be consistent with state monitoring guidelines.

Numerous community members have been involved in sampling sites on the major tributaries and wetlands and capturing diff erent land uses throughout the catchment. Baseline sampling combined with the capture of fl ood events has helped to identify reaches of concern for sediment, nutrient and faecal pollution sources, and will be used to focus rehabilitation eff orts on the ground. Southern Rivers CMA Coastal Catchment Offi cers have played a signifi cant role in ensuring effective design and implementation of the project and data analysis.

Dune Days

In 2009, Bombo Headland Landcare, Little Blowhole Landcare, Gainsborough Chase Minnamurra River Wetland Landcare and Werri Beach Dunecare secured a Community Coastcare grant to carry out a range of on-ground and educational activities. Support from the Illawarra Landcare Coordinator assisted the successful completion of a range of activities, including:

• bushland regeneration at four sites
• increased community awareness through development of signage and pamphlets, utilising local indigenous stories and design
• celebration of indigenous culture and links to the land through educational sessions with local art studio Boolarng Nangamai and the local high school
• connection of 175 locals with their dune environment and re-establishment of the Gerringong Gerroa Landcare Liaison Network through the Dune Day - Save Our Coasts event.
• engaging local community in monitoring at Minnamurra Wetlands, including vegetation surveys.

Partners: Landcare and Dune Care groups, wetland groups, oyster growing groups, Local Aboriginal Land Councils, catchment groups, environmental education centres, marine conservation and discovery groups

Funding: Australian Government’s NHT and Caring for our Country initiative and NSW Government

Value of project: $124,960
• Ulladulla High School senior geography students and teachers use the software as one of five laboratories in the Shoalhaven and will commence mapping their school
• Ulladulla Local Aboriginal Lands Council are implanting the technology with support from Milton Rural Landcare
• coordinating nine sites for 20 National Green Jobs Corps volunteers.

Project insights:
Shoalhaven Landcare is one of the most independent Landcare Associations in the region – volunteers carry out the lion’s share of all tasks. This puts pressure on volunteers and their families. It demands good planning around reporting and grant application times. Southern Rivers CMA’s support to Shoalhaven Landcare needs to be flexible and multi-faceted.

Project challenges:
Sourcing funding that applies to changing community priorities is an ongoing challenge. Shoalhaven Landcare have been seeking funding to take the mapping project to the next level as well as ongoing funding for priority Landcare works in the district.

Shoalhaven Landcare will continue to develop the Mapping the Shoalhaven Project and seek funds to invest in a project officer. The Association will continue to provide support to member groups and landholders through training events, working bees and get-togethers.

Partners: Shoalhaven Landcare Association

Funding: Australian Government’s Landcare Sustainable Practices and Caring for our Country initiative and NSW Government

Value of the Project: $590,000

SHOALHAVEN LANDCARE ASSOCIATION SUPPORT

The Shoalhaven Landcare Association is one of seven DLAs in the Southern Rivers region. The CMA provides a range of support to Shoalhaven Landcare through the local Community Support Officer and funding programs.

Over the past 12 months, the Southern Rivers CMA has supported Shoalhaven Landcare to engage and carry out priority Landcare works and training in the district. Shoalhaven Landcare have focussed on developing a state-of-the-art spatial information system through the Mapping the Shoalhaven Project with support from software company Intergraph and a range of partners. The project will enable community groups to extend their knowledge of the area, to map and to track their efforts and changes in the landscape, leading to improved and more informed community-based decision making.

Southern Rivers CMA has facilitated Shoalhaven Landcare’s access to NSW Government spatial data through five data licences for five separate workstations to be located throughout the Shoalhaven and will provide ongoing advice to the project.

Southern Rivers CMA has also worked with local National Green Jobs Corps providers to employ and train young people in agricultural and NRM skills. The Jobs Corps teams have been of great support to Shoalhaven Landcare’s efforts in the district.

Project results:
• Shoalhaven Landcare Association and 25 member groups are supported through Southern Rivers CMA’s Community Support Officer
• Shoalhaven Landcare has supported 14 landholders with incentive funding through Southern Rivers CMA’s Priority Landcare Works project.

Project results Mapping the Shoalhaven Project:
• five data licence agreements for Shoalhaven Landcare Association to access a range of geographic data for the area
The aim of Southern Rivers CMA’s Biodiversity Program is to retain, and where necessary increase, the extent and quality of all native vegetation community types in order to maintain and improve catchment health and protect biodiversity. Native vegetation community types include terrestrial forest, rainforest, woodland, heathland, grassland, saltmarsh, mangrove and wetland communities. Each of these community types provides a special habitat for different species of native plants and animals.

The Southern Rivers region includes large areas of NSW National Park, State Forest and Crown Land containing a diversity of landscapes and habitats. The state of the region’s biodiversity resources and the continuing pressure on these, directs Southern Rivers CMA’s efforts to improve their condition. Southern Rivers CMA’s Biodiversity Program also aims to protect, improve and connect remnant vegetation in over-cleared and impacted landscapes.

Performance against CAP targets

Data on program achievements can change significantly between years depending upon where funding for projects is allocated, the types of works completed and investor priorities. Some data collection methodologies have changed over time due to the addition of new data collection protocols. Data collection processes within Southern Rivers CMA were notably different for this financial year resulting in inconsistent data between years. Additional data has had to be collected in order to meet Australian Government reporting requirements. Funding for some on-ground NRM activities was reduced during the 2009-10 year.
Table Eight - Biodiversity Program CAP Targets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biodiversity management target B1 - community and landholder knowledge and skills</th>
<th>2008-09 Achievements</th>
<th>2009-10 Achievements</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CB5.1 Total number of groups supported</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CB5.2 Total number of landholders or individuals supported</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CB2.1 Number of training sessions, workshops, seminars or other skills and training events</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CB2.2 Number of workbooks, course notes or other key materials developed</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CB3.1 Number of awareness raising events such as demonstrations, field days or study tours</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CB1.4 Number of media opportunities resulting in articles in newspapers or radio or TV</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CB1.3 Number of displays developed for use at events such as regional meetings</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CB3.2 Number of formally documented collaborative arrangements developed</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of opportunities provided for short term visitors in NRM</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Biodiversity management target B2 and B3 – native vegetation conservation

B2 By 2016 through voluntary participation by land managers, the area of land actively managed to conserve priority vegetation types will increase from 11,000 hectares to at least 41,000 hectares.

B3 By 2016 through voluntary participation by land managers, an additional 10,000 hectares of native vegetation will be actively managed to build a resilient landscape with good connectivity that conserves biodiversity.
**Case studies**

**FAR SOUTH COAST LONG-NOSED POTOROO CONSERVATION PROGRAM**

The Long-nosed Potoroo is a nationally threatened species that is rapidly disappearing from its former range - the dense coastal forests of southern Queensland through to the South Australian border with Victoria. The cause of its decline is predation by foxes and loss of suitable habitat due to land clearing, other human impacts and climate change. On the Far South Coast of NSW Southern Rivers CMA, with assistance from its government partners and the local community, is fighting back.

The Long-nosed Potoroo Conservation Program operates across private and public lands from Narooma to Bega. Best practice fox control is being rolled out in two main project areas at Tanja and Wallaga Lake. The project team is engaging landholders on the potoroo and fox issue and enrolling them in a program of fox control that the community can carry into the future.

Best practice fox control currently involves baiting once a month across every square kilometre of land in a four kilometre arc around Potoroo sites. To monitor the outcomes of this control infra-red cameras are used across the area to check changes in Potoroo numbers. Sand plot transects are used to monitor the outcomes in the fox population.

The project links with the local Aboriginal community by employing an Indigenous Community Engagement Officer to promote the cultural and natural heritage values of the Potoroo. Local language booklets on the Potoroo and other native animals have been produced and are being promoted in local schools.
From the ashes arose an opportunity to control one of Australia’s most noxious weeds. The fire burned through extensive tracts of lantana across the lower slopes of Gulaga Mountain and opened up access to lantana infestations that were previously inaccessible.

In the wake of the fire Southern Rivers CMA responded to support Eurobodalla Shire Council to work collaboratively with private landholders to develop Lantana Control Plans which identify priority works to control lantana in littoral rainforest on 17 properties.

Local landholders, with assistance from the Wagonga Rangers Koori Work Team worked quickly and intensively to control over 90 hectares of lantana in an effort to make the most of the opportunity provided by the fire.

Control methods included both manual and chemical control. Bush regeneration and spraying contractors were engaged to implement on-ground works as required. Photopoints have been established and are regularly monitored to measure the effectiveness of the control methods implemented. The response of biodiversity, identification of lantana recruitment levels from seed bank, reinvasion rates and native plant recruitment will be monitored to inform future control activities.

The fire presented an opportunity to determine the effectiveness of fire as a potential control method. Southern Rivers CMA is supporting research in the range of responses of lantana to fire.

**GULAGA LANTANA CONTROL**

The Plan to Protect Environmental Assets from Lantana (April 2009) developed by the National Lantana Management Group identifies littoral rainforest in the Southern Rivers region is a high priority ecological community which is being threatened by lantana invasions. The Gulaga area was identified as being a priority control site. It is the only major pocket of core lantana infestation south of Australia’s present southern lantana containment line at Sussex Inlet.

In August 2009, a controlled burn that had been smouldering for several weeks broke out of the State Forest at Gulaga Mountain. Aided by the drought conditions and strong winds, the fire burned for four days across 3,000 hectares.

**Image:** A fire at Gulaga Mountain provided opportunities for lantana control works. A rainforest gully at Gulaga after the fire (December 2009).

**FAR SOUTH COASTAL WEEDS STRATEGY AND KOORI WORK CREWS**

The magnificent and diverse coastal landscapes are the Bega Valley Shire’s “jewels in the crown” and the foundation for the region’s important tourism industry. While environmental weeds are present they are still at an early stage of invasion, mostly near scattered coastal settlements. Significant momentum has been achieved in recent years in coastal weed control through Southern Rivers CMA’s Far South Coastal Weeds Project.

**Project works include:**

- a benchmark survey of environmental weed infestations in the coastal zone of the Bega Valley Shire
- advice to community and agencies on appropriateness and effectiveness of existing environmental weed control activities
- assistance to groups to develop a comprehensive and integrated environmental weed control strategy
- provision of resources in the form of local Koori work crews to address recognised priorities.
Engaging the community has proved an ongoing challenge – extending awareness and sustaining engagement in a rather unattractive subject, beyond the small core of regular supporters. However, this project has been successful in expanding the network through the establishment of two new coastal community groups.

Project results:

- delivery of a survey and state of the weeds report
- development and implementation of local action plans for four urban areas, in consultation with local communities
- labour support for five Landcare and Dunecare groups to help ‘break the back’ of significant weed infestations, resulting in over 1,500 hectares of weed control completed and extension in the scope of work carried out by groups
- provision of employment and training opportunities for local Kooris
- marked reductions in weed infestations, particularly sea spurge, bitou and polygala
- successful sourcing of funding to extend sea spurge control work
- adoption of the successful work crew partnership model along the South Coast
- inspiration for other regions to follow a similar approach, e.g. East Gippsland
- development of a range of approaches to raise community awareness – production of innovative ‘Unintended Gardens’ signage, nursery education and weed talks involving a variety of community groups.

The success of the project can be attributed to:

- an effective and cohesive inter-agency steering committee
- local Koori work crews providing labour support and impetus to local community groups to reduce large weed infestations to manageable levels
- a Southern Rivers CMA Coastal Catchment Officer with the vision, persistence and capacity to pull an effective team of stakeholders together to focus on the issue, advocate for resources and drive the implementation of an innovative, landscape scale approach to the problem.

While the incidence of particular coastal weeds has been markedly reduced, garden escapes are still of great concern. Effort is now being focused on raising community awareness of garden escapes in coastal towns, and their impacts on endangered ecological communities.

**Partners:** The multi-agency steering committee, coordinated by Southern Rivers CMA, initially included representatives from Bega Valley Shire Council, NPWS and Far South Coast Landcare Association, and more recently Eurobodalla Shire Council, Parks Victoria and Land and Property Management Authority. Partnerships with work crews from three Local Aboriginal Land Councils and local Landcare/Dune Care groups have been essential to the success of the project.

**Funding:** Australian Government, Bega Valley Shire Council, local community groups and NSW Government

**Value of project:** $450,000 (cash and in-kind)

**Figure Nine - Locals Linking Landscapes project location within the Upper Shoalhaven sub-region**

**WINDELLAMA LOCALS LINKING LANDSCAPES**

Many years of continuous extension throughout the Upper Shoalhaven sub-region has generated much interest in NRM issues. Historically, projects have been delivered through engagement with individual landholders through single NRM issue related programs. Locals Linking Landscapes aims to capitalise on the existing NRM momentum in the district and to increase the scale of implementation by utilising existing networks and neighbour relations. This project also aims to address a variety
of NRM issues through integrated project design. Locals Linking Landscapes ensures maintenance of landholder interest and investment in NRM outcomes by providing relevant support, and investment in locally recognised issues.

A sub-catchment was strategically selected using spatial data and a matrix which allowed comparison of areas against a range of investor needs. The degree of landholder readiness was also considered. Local stakeholder groups (Windellama Landcare and Windellama Progress Association) were engaged by invitation to participate.

A planning meeting was held at which, 65 attending local landholders were asked to describe what was limiting their ability to reach the desired vision for their properties. Limitations were grouped and compared to NRM issues. These were then discussed in a landscape context, resulting in a shared landscape vision. Further meetings aligned NRM issues with potential solutions and relative areas for investment and activity were identified.

Thirteen expressions of interest in on-ground works were received from landholders. Site inspections resulted in the development of 12 management plans which crossed property boundaries in many cases. Preference was given to clusters of cooperative landholders and to landholders with projects addressing multiple NRM issues. Seven landholders required funding to implement plans and signed agreements. Works have commenced using volunteer Landcare labour.

Project results:
- 12 management plans prepared
- 7 agreements signed (4 Property Vegetation Plans with 2 in perpetuity)
- 146 hectares with soil carbon protected
- 4 agreements implementing erosion control works
- 146 hectares of Weeds of National Significance control
- 86 hectares woodland protected
- 18.4 hectares of Endangered Ecological Communities woodland protected
- 27 hectares planted with endemic vegetation
- 17 hectares riparian land protected with fencing
- 29 hectares terrestrial vegetation rehabilitated/protected
- 3 workshops run (total 82 participants)

Project insights:
Interest in the second round of Windellama Locals Linking Landscapes is already becoming apparent with five new expressions of interest received. These landholders have heard about the project through conversations with their neighbours (some of whom have Locals Linking Landscapes projects). It is this cumulative, cooperative aspect that will eventually result in meaningful landscape scale outcomes.

In some cases, where a cooperative approach across property boundaries was necessary and recognised by both neighbours, poor relations (as often occur between neighbours) were recognised as barriers to the development of management plans. These situations were dealt with through careful facilitation, and with a focus on the biophysical outcomes and improved cost share ratios associated with cooperative effort.

Project challenges:
Several NRM issues were not directly identified by stakeholders at the planning meeting. Box Gum Woodland conservation (a major Caring for our Country target) and salinity were poorly recognised. This was addressed in workshops, which resulted in several management plans being developed which incorporated actions that address these issues.

Follow-up meetings with stakeholders and landholders are planned to review what efforts have been made towards their shared landscape vision. This will result in the development of a local planning tool which can be used to guide future efforts/investment.

Funded works will be targeted to add value to those existing projects, and to address issues recognised by the community as relevant to their vision. More workshops, including a soil and salinity expo, will be help to raise awareness of issues associated with soil health and solutions to salinity.

Two additional years of investment in this area will be offered followed by an exit strategy (2012). This should leave the community in a strong position to maintain and monitor existing works and to strategically implement future NRM efforts in line with Southern Rivers CMA’s CAP targets and Australian and NSW Government investment strategies, guided by the planning tool.

It is envisaged that this delivery mechanism will then move to a newly selected area, based on investor needs and community readiness.

Partners: Windellama Landcare and Windellama Progress Association

Funding: Australian Government’s Caring for our Country and NSW Government’s Catchment Action NSW

Value of project: $120,000
Geological processes, grazing and agricultural management activities, drainage of wetlands and the clearing of riverbanks have reshaped a variety of landforms and landscapes across the Southern Rivers region. The aim of the Soil and Land Capability program is to improve land management and address land degradation processes, such as soil loss and soil quality decline, water contamination, weed invasion and the impact of weeds on natural and agricultural environments.

Performance against CAP targets

Data on program achievements can change significantly between years depending upon where funding for projects is allocated, the types of works completed and investor priorities. Some data collection methodologies have changed over time due to the addition of new data collection protocols. Data collection processes within Southern Rivers CMA were notably different for this financial year resulting in inconsistent data between years. Additional data has had to be collected in order to meet Australian Government reporting requirements. Funding for some on-ground NRM activities was reduced during the 2009-10 year.
Achievements 2008-09

Soils and Land Capability Management Target SLC1 – Land Manager Skills
SLC1 There will be 300 land managers per year with increased skills, knowledge and support to manage land within its capability.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CB5.1</th>
<th>Total number of groups supported</th>
<th>110</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total number of landholders or individuals supported</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CB2.1</th>
<th>Number of training sessions, workshops, seminars or other skills and training events</th>
<th>36</th>
<th>14</th>
<th>No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CB2.2</td>
<td>Number of workbooks, course notes or other key materials developed</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CB1.1</td>
<td>Number of awareness raising events such as demonstrations, field days or study tours</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CB1.2</td>
<td>Number of written products such as brochures, newsletters, posters or fact sheets</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CB3.2</td>
<td>Number of formally documented collaborative arrangements developed</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Achievements 2009-2010

Soils and Land Capability Management Target SLC2 – Development Controls
SLC2 By 2008 there will be greater integration of natural resource management with planning instruments and processes to ensure that land use change recognises land capability and suitability.

2008-2009 Achievements
Kiama and Eurobodalla Local Environment Plans were commented on. Seventy Development Applications were reviewed.

2009-2010 Achievements
Comments were made on the Bombala, Shellharbour, Wollongong and West Dapto Local Environment Plans. Further comments on the Eurobodalla Local Environment Plan were made. Comments were also made on Part 3a developments at Tallawarra, Bamarang Power Plant and Killalea State Park. Comments were made on the Eurobodalla recreational plan and 21 development applications.

Soils and Land Capability Management Target SLC3 – Erosion
SLC3 (a) By 2016 300 kilometres of gully erosion will be stabilised including:
• 125 kilometres of minor and moderate gully erosion
• 175 kilometres of severe and very severe gully erosion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OG9.1</th>
<th>Treated for soil erosion via engineering works</th>
<th>47.75</th>
<th>242</th>
<th>Ha</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OG9.2</td>
<td>Treated for soil erosion via exclusion fencing</td>
<td>4716</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>Ha</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SLC3 (b) By 2016 a minimum of 10,000 hectares will be protected from the threat of erosion including land:
• identified as having a severe or very severe wind erosion hazard
• susceptible to severe and very severe sheet and rill erosion

This management target is under review. The target was aimed at maintaining adequate ground cover at all times to minimise erosion. Many actions that achieve this target are incorporated under SLC1 and SLC6.

Soils and Land Capability Management Target SLC4 – Acid Sulphate Soils
SLC4 By 2016 manage according to best practice:
• all exposed acid sulphate soils
• all land identified as having an active acid sulphate soil risk within its capability

| OG9.3 | Area (ha) of acid sulfate soils identified and treated/protected | 4 | 5 | Ha |

Soils and Land Capability Management Target SLC5 – Salinity
SLC5 By 2016 manage at least 200 hectares of land affected by dryland salinity.

| OG9.4 | Other soil treatment | 71 | NR | Ha |

Area (ha) of dryland salinity treated 0 0 Ha

Soils and Land Capability Management Target SLC6 – Soil Health
SLC6 By 2016 an additional 10,000 hectares of land will be managed with appropriate soil and pasture management practices to improve soil health and productivity.

Area of upstream catchment protected by soil conservation works 815 198 Ha

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OG9.5</th>
<th>Area of pasture managed to improve soil health</th>
<th>323</th>
<th>4,253</th>
<th>Ha</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Length (km) of severe to very severe eroding gully stabilised on property</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>1.52</td>
<td>Km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Length of minor/moderate eroding gully stabilised on property</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>Km</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table Nine - Soil and Land Capability Program CAP Targets continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2008-09 Achievements</th>
<th>2009-10 Achievements</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flow lines protected by engineering works</td>
<td>15.33</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>Km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of road treated for sediment input through engineering/roadworks</td>
<td>6.84</td>
<td>0.26</td>
<td>Km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual reduction in sediment entering water course</td>
<td>307</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>tonnes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OGI2.4 Number of animal effluent control works for animal waste established on properties</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OGI2.4 Tonnes of animal effluent stored by control works</td>
<td>6.656</td>
<td>6.310</td>
<td>tonnes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OGI2.6 Stormwater quality control devices</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OGI3.2 Stormwater re-use systems</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OGI2.42 Volume (ML) of effluent removed or contained by effluent control works ML saved</td>
<td>165.75</td>
<td>39.25</td>
<td>ML</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OGI12.3 Volume (ML) of effluent removed or contained by effluent control works ML saved</td>
<td>66.8</td>
<td>39.25</td>
<td>ML</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OGI2.1 Area (ha) of coastal vegetation protected by fencing</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OGI2.4 Area (ha) of terrestrial native vegetation protected by fencing</td>
<td>40.49</td>
<td>43.63</td>
<td>Ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OGI2.3 Area (ha) of riparian native vegetation protected by fencing</td>
<td>168.2</td>
<td>168.25</td>
<td>Ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OGI2.3 Streambank length (km) of riparian vegetation enhanced/rehabilitated</td>
<td>47.93</td>
<td>27.13</td>
<td>Km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OGI3.1 Area (ha) of coastal native vegetation enhanced/rehabilitated</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>59.5</td>
<td>Ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OGI3.4 Area (ha) of terrestrial native vegetation enhanced/rehabilitated</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>50.31</td>
<td>Ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OGI3.3 Area (ha) of riparian native vegetation enhanced/rehabilitated</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>105.35</td>
<td>Ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OGI3.31 Riparian vegetation (length in km)</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>13.95</td>
<td>Km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OGI4.6 Area (ha) planted to terrestrial native species</td>
<td>35.74</td>
<td>34.57</td>
<td>Ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OGI4.4 Area (ha) planted to riparian native species</td>
<td>27.23</td>
<td>36.33</td>
<td>Ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OGI4.5 Streambank length (km) planted to riparian vegetation (length)</td>
<td>22.41</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>Km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OGI4.1 Area (ha) of native plantation established</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OGI5.3 Area (ha) of exotic perennial pastures established</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OGI1.1 Length (km) of streambank stabilised with engineering works</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of streambank stabilisation structures</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OGI1.2 Length (km) of stream bed stabilised</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>Km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of streambed stabilisation structures</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OGI1.3 Number of off-stream (alternative) watering sites installed</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OGI1.31 Length (km) of streambank protected from stock</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>35.3</td>
<td>Km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of large woody debris replaced</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OGI3.2 Area (ha) of wetland native vegetation enhanced/rehabilitated</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>Ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OGI7.1 Total area (ha) protected by fencing specifically for significant.</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area of habitat management</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>533</td>
<td>Ha</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Soils and Land Capability Management Target SLC7 – Agricultural Weeds
SLC7 By 2016 an additional 50,000 hectares will be actively managed for invasive plant species that threaten agricultural sustainability.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2008-09 Achievements</th>
<th>2009-10 Achievements</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OGI8.1 Area (ha) of initial pest plant control measures implemented</td>
<td>6,599.6</td>
<td>74.25</td>
<td>Ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total length (km) of pest plant control measures implemented</td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OGI8.11 Area (ha) of this pest plant control that represents initial treatment</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>59.5</td>
<td>Ha</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Soils and Land Capability Management Target SLC8 – Pest Animals
SLC8 By 2016 there will be a 20,000 hectare increase in the area of land actively managed to control pest animal species (and/or impact of these species) that threaten agricultural sustainability.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2008-09 Achievements</th>
<th>2009-10 Achievements</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OGI8.3 Area (ha) of initial pest plant control measures implemented</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OGI8.4 Area (ha) of pest control (invertebrates) measures implemented</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Ha</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
capacity of farmers to be involved in Natural Resource Management.

The South Coast and Highlands Dairy Industry Group are continuing to implement a Caring for Country (Sustainable Landuse Practices Grant). Southern Rivers CMA will continue to support this group to assist the dairy industry to increase capacity in NRM.

**Partners:** South Coast and Highlands Dairy Industry Group, I&I NSW and National Foods (formerly Dairy Farmers)

**Funding:** Australian and NSW Governments

**Value of project:** $550,000

### Case studies

#### DAIRY INDUSTRY GROUP PROJECT SHOALHAVEN/ILLAWARRA

This project worked with the dairy industry from Albion Park in the Illawarra region to Milton in the Shoalhaven region. Incentive funding and training was provided to dairy farmers to implement NRM.

The Dairy Industry Group Project worked with 75 per cent of dairy farmers in the Illawarra and Shoalhaven to increase their skills and capacity to implement NRM actions. Activities on-farm included riparian management, soil health and fertiliser management, effluent management and the creation of shade and shelterbelts.

**Project results:**
- over 40 kilometres of riparian fencing
- 52 alternative watering points installed
- over 15,000 native trees and shrubs planted
- 20 hard surface bedcrossings and laneway improvements
- 35 effluent management plans developed, with 60 per cent implemented
- 40 farmers trained in farm mapping
- 16 soil nutrient maps developed

**Project insights:**

Funding structures and the changing of eligible activities from year to year created expectations that funds were available for projects throughout the length of the project from 2004-09. Better communication and clear opening and closing dates for funding will improve this.

**Project challenges:**

The impact of drought over the project period especially in 2006 and 2007 presented significant challenges to the implementation and financial

The Monaro region contains some of the largest remaining areas of Natural Temperate Grasslands; Australia's most endangered ecological community. Grazing of grasslands is also central to maintaining the productivity of the Monaro merino and beef industries. Sustainable grazing of the native grasslands is therefore critically important.

Using data collected from two grassland trial sites on the Monaro we have been able to support the development of a model for the prediction of growth rates for native pastures. GrassGro® - developed by Commonwealth Scientific Industry Research Organisation (CSIRO), uses local climatic, soil and plant species information to model pasture response under a range of scenarios. The project
aims to increase the area of land managed within its capability by providing the GrassGro® data to farmers on the Monaro.

**Project insights:**
Good data collection is important, and when done correctly as in this project, it can be turned to multiple outcomes for the public and for the researchers. Development and delivery of training at the enterprise (farm) level is often required to enable any significant change in grazing management to occur.

**Project challenges:**
Maintaining funding for applied Research and Development is very difficult. Southern Rivers CMA has had to work very hard to continue funding for the collection and analysis of grassland data over six years. The data was collected from sites that were representative of the major native pasture systems: one at Bungarby on basalt soil; and one at Berridale on granite soil. The GrassGro® model had to be in-tune with a range of different plant species that make up the whole native pasture, and not just plot the grow curve of a single species.

The uptake of the information is already underway with members of Monaro Farming Systems running training sessions for the use of GrassGro® and getting a feel for the predictions from the software versus their own experiences as farmers of the Monaro.

**Partners:** I&I NSW, CSIRO and Monaro Farming Systems

**Funding:** Australian Government’s NHT and Caring for our Country initiative and NSW Government

**Value of project:** $2 million

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**Figure Ten** - Actual [ ] and model [ ] of pasture mass, Bungarby NSW

Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority
The Southern Rivers region's rivers and wetlands are unique and varied. They range from pristine natural systems that support diverse aquatic flora and fauna and productive estuaries, to highly modified systems through developed urban and industrialised areas. The rivers and aquifers support diverse agricultural production, including dairying, forestry, beef, sheep, fruit and aquaculture. The recreation and tourism industries are also very important to the region in social and economic terms. The natural and scenic qualities of rivers and wetlands are directly linked to the future success of these industries.

The region has highly variable, and at times scarce, water resources that are crucial for the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the region. Southern Rivers CMA's Water Program aims to improve the productivity and efficiency of water use, while maintaining healthy rivers (riverbanks and riverbeds), wetlands and groundwater systems.

Performance against CAP targets

Data on program achievements can change significantly between years depending upon where funding for projects is allocated, the types of works completed and investor priorities. Some data collection methodologies have changed over time due to the addition of new data collection protocols. Data collection processes within Southern Rivers CMA were notably different for this financial year resulting in inconsistent data between years. Additional data has had to be collected in order to meet Australian Government reporting requirements. Funding for some on-ground NRM activities was reduced during the 2009-10 year.
**Water Management Target W1 – water sharing**

W1 By 2008, 80% of surface water sources and priority groundwater sources of the Southern Rivers region will be managed according to a water sharing/management plan.

**2009-2010**

The water sharing planning process is being implemented by the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water. Southern Rivers CMA held a scientific forum on the Shoalhaven River which was to inform the community about the science behind the Metro water sharing plan. The Metro Water Sharing Plan has been released for public exhibition.

Water sharing plans for the Bega-Brogo, Towamba, and Murrah-Wallaga went to public exhibition in November 2009. Submissions have been received and appropriate changes have been made to the draft plans. The plans are in the process of being gazetted.

**Water Management Target W2 – water quality**

W2 By 2016 the quality of priority water bodies will be maintained or progressively improved

Direct actions on water quality have been recorded under management targets W5a to W5d. Water quality actions are also recorded in the soil and land management target SLC6 as improving soil health and stability leads to improved water quality.

**Water Management Target W3 – management of water supply and wastewater**

W3 By 2016 all water utilities within Southern Rivers CMA area will be managing their water systems consistent with the NSW Governments Best Practice Management of Water Supply and Sewerage Guidelines approach.

Data currently unavailable.

**Water Management Target W4 – water conservation and efficiency**

W4(a) By 2016 the residential consumption (per capita) of potable water in urban areas will progressively reduce from the 2001-02 benchmark (as per the NSW Water Supply and Sewerage Performance Monitoring Report)

Data currently unavailable.

**W4(b) Water savings** (through adoption of improved water use efficiency and conservation measures) will be progressively improved against the 2005 benchmark, so that by 2016 a 20% improvement in water conservation and use efficiency will be achieved by at least 80 per cent of licensed irrigators within the Southern Rivers catchments.

| OG13.1 | Improved irrigation practices (No land managers) | 0 | 0 | No. |
| OG13.1 | Improved irrigation practices (Ha of land effected by change) | 0 | 0 | Ha |
| OG13.2 | Improved farm water re-use options (No land managers) | 0 | 0 | No. |
| | ML saved | 0 | 0 | ML |

*Note: Funding was not allocated to this management target for the past two reporting periods.*

**Water Management Target W5 – river and wetland protection and rehabilitation**

W5(a) By 2016 an additional 2,000ha of riparian vegetation will be actively managed for improved riverine ecosystem condition.

A wetland map compilation, classification and prioritisation report was completed. 15 wetland health assessments and wetland management plans were completed.

| OG12 | Voluntary Management Contracts - not tied to title | 2 | 102 | No. |
| OG121 | Area Under Voluntary Management Contracts - not tied to title | 7.5 | 845.25 | Ha |
| OG21 | Total area (ha) worked on (state question) | 0.3 | 1725 | Ha |
| | Area (ha) of coastal vegetation protected by fencing | 5.1 | 0 | Ha |
| OG2. | Area (ha) of terrestrial native vegetation protected by fencing | 0 | 0 | Ha |
| OG2.3 | Area (ha) of riparian native vegetation protected by fencing | 54.8 | 67.91 | Ha |
| OG2.3 | Streambank length (km) of riparian vegetation enhanced/rehabilitated | 14.7 | 35.42 | Km |
| OG3.1 | Area (ha) of coastal native vegetation enhanced/rehabilitated | 0 | 3 | Ha |
| OG3.4 | Area (ha) of terrestrial native vegetation enhanced/rehabilitated | 17 | 0 | Ha |
| OG3.3 | Area (ha) of riparian native vegetation enhanced/rehabilitated | 22.73 | 235 | Ha |
| OG3.31 | Riparian vegetation (length in km) | 6.25 | 67 | Km |
| | Marine Vegetation | 0 | 1 | Ha |
| OG4.2 | Area (ha) planted to coastal native species | 0.6 | 0.46 | Ha |
| OG4.6 | Area (ha) planted to terrestrial native species | 4 | 0 | Ha |
### Table Ten - Water Program CAP Targets continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target</th>
<th>2008-09 Achievements</th>
<th>2009-10 Achievements</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OG4.4</td>
<td>Area (ha) planted to riparian native species</td>
<td>21.7</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OG4.5</td>
<td>Streambank length (km) planted to riparian vegetation (length)</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OG4.1</td>
<td>Area (ha) of native plantation established</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine Vegetation</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OG8.1</td>
<td>Area (ha) of initial pest plant control measures implemented</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total length (km) of pest plant control measures implemented</td>
<td>164.29</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>Km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area (ha) of maintenance pest plant control measures implemented</td>
<td>131.97</td>
<td>368</td>
<td>Ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OG8.3</td>
<td>Area (ha) of pest animal control (vertebrates) measures implemented</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OG8.4</td>
<td>Area (ha) of pest control (invertebrates) measures implemented</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**W5(b)** By 2016, streambed and bank stability over 150km of priority watercourse will be rehabilitated and protected through the construction of a minimum of 50 streambed and bank control structures.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target</th>
<th>2008-09 Achievements</th>
<th>2009-10 Achievements</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OG9.1</td>
<td>Treated for soil erosion via engineering works</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OG9.2</td>
<td>Treated for soil erosion via exclusion fencing</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>21.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OG9.3</td>
<td>Area (ha) of acid sulfate soils identified and treated/protected</td>
<td>63.75</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OG11.1</td>
<td>Length (km) of streambank stabilised with engineering works</td>
<td>2.94</td>
<td>2.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of streambank stabilisation structures</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OG11.2</td>
<td>Length (km) of stream bed stabilised</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of streambed stabilisation structures</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OG11.3</td>
<td>Number of off-stream (alternative) watering sites installed</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OG11.4</td>
<td>Length of instream habitat established/enhanced</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of large woody debris replaced</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OG11.5</td>
<td>Number of fish barriers addressed</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of stream opened up to fish passage</td>
<td>308</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of foreshore (estuary/coast) stabilised</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>Km</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**W5(c)** By 2016 in-stream habitat will progressively be improved by appropriate in-stream works, such as re-instatement of large woody debris, sandy riverbed reconfiguration and removal of a minimum of 15 barriers to fish passage in priority reaches.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target</th>
<th>2008-09 Achievements</th>
<th>2009-10 Achievements</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OG2.2</td>
<td>Area (ha) of wetland native vegetation protected by fencing</td>
<td>94.99</td>
<td>9.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OG3.2</td>
<td>Area (ha) of wetland native vegetation enhanced/rehabilitated</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>17.64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**W5(d)** By 2016 priority actions and works will be implemented to protect and enhance 40 wetlands of national and regional importance identified as priorities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target</th>
<th>2008-09 Achievements</th>
<th>2009-10 Achievements</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OG2.2</td>
<td>Area (ha) of wetland native vegetation protected by fencing</td>
<td>94.99</td>
<td>9.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OG3.2</td>
<td>Area (ha) of wetland native vegetation enhanced/rehabilitated</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>17.64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**W5(e)** By 2011, local environmental plans (LEPs) will incorporate minimum vegetated buffer distances to protect waterways from impacts of development.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target</th>
<th>2008-09 Achievements</th>
<th>2009-10 Achievements</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of responses given to statutory planning requests</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: this has been reported under the Coast and Marine Program*

**Community and partnership activities which support the implementation of the Water Program.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target</th>
<th>2008-09 Achievements</th>
<th>2009-10 Achievements</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CB5.1</td>
<td>Total number of groups supported</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of landholders or individuals supported</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flow-on effects - number of funding applications supported this quarter</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flow-on effects - number of funding applications successful this quarter</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flow-on effects - amount of funding received</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CB2.1</td>
<td>Number of training sessions, workshops, seminars or other skills and training events</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CB2.2</td>
<td>Number of workbooks, course notes or other key materials developed</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CB1.1</td>
<td>Number of awareness raising events such as demonstrations, field days or study tours</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CB1.2</td>
<td>Number of written products such as brochures, newsletters, posters or fact sheets</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CB1.4</td>
<td>Number of media opportunities resulting in articles in newspapers or radio or TV</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Case studies

BOMBALA, DELEGATE AND LITTLE PLAINS RIVER BROOM MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Scotch and cape broom are declared noxious weeds which form dense thickets that can eventually lead to complete dominance of native vegetation, particularly along waterways. Broom infestations also diminish pasture availability and can significantly decrease biodiversity along river banks.

Since 1992, control of broom along the Little Plains, Delegate and Bombala Rivers has been a major focus for local Landcare Groups. More recently, the Victorian East Gippsland CMA raised concerns about Broom spreading from the Bombala/Delegate River systems into the currently uninfested Snowy River.

In response to these efforts and concerns the Broom Management Program was established in 2006 with the aim of reducing densities of broom to manageable levels along these river systems within a four year period. This program is a major component of the Bombala River Rehabilitation Plan.

At initiation of the project the densities of broom were mapped along the Bombala, Delegate and Little Plains Rivers. Mapping was in recognition of the need for an integrated catchment wide top down approach to achieve effective control rather than sporadic, isolated efforts which are often hindered by accessibility, time and cost.

Contractors have been engaged each spring to undertake initial spraying and landholders have signed agreements for follow-up control. A partnership with Bombala Council has been formed to assist with enforcing ongoing control.

Significant challenges of the program are:

- difficulty in engaging absentee landholders in the program
- access for control as a number of areas where broom is present are steep and rocky
- raising awareness of broom as a noxious weed
- treatment of core infestations.

To date, initial control of broom has been achieved across 90 per cent of the original mapped infestation area, equating to 385 hectares of riparian land or 65 kilometres of river treated with 51 management agreements having been signed with landholders. During the 2009-10 spraying program, spraying of the last core infestation along the Delegate River was commenced.

The project plans to tackle the remaining core infestations which exist on four properties over the next few years. Future enforcement for ongoing control will occur through the Bombala Council Weeds Officer via the signed management agreements.

Partners: Snowy River Interstate Landcare, Bombala Council, Land and Property Management Authority and local landholders

Funding: Australian Government’s NHT and Caring for our Country initiatives and NSW Government’s Catchment Action NSW and Land and Property Management Authority

Value of the Project: $167,000 plus matching in-kind contributions from landholders

SNOWY RIVER RECOVERY: STOCKING OF AUSTRALIAN BASS RIVERS AND WETLANDS PROGRAM

The Snowy River is one of Australia’s iconic rivers, but it has suffered major degradation through over-extraction of water by the Snowy Mountains Scheme. A comprehensive program of returning environmental flows and river rehabilitation works are gradually enabling river health to improve. One of the outstanding problems with the River is that its population of Australian bass has almost completely ceased to breed, with the last major recruitment occurring in 1988. This has left the River with an ageing bass population in danger of becoming locally extinct.

It has been estimated that a recovered Snowy River would generate up to $20 million per year in economic activity with much of the activity being from water based sports such as fishing for Australian bass.

A Native Fish Recovery Strategy has been developed with NSW and Victorian partners to recover the native fish populations of the Snowy River in both states. The strategy set a target of stocking 200,000 Australian bass into the NSW and Victorian sections of the River. This is an interim measure to maintain the bass population while the underlying causes of the lack of natural recruitment are uncovered and remedied.

Project results:

From 2007–09 there were 50,000, 150,000 and 22,000 Australian Bass stocked in the NSW section of the Snowy River. During 2008 and 2009 there were an additional 200,000 stocked into the Victorian section of the River. This meets the stocking targets set by the Native Fish Recovery Strategy.

There has been enthusiastic support from landholders living along the Snowy River for the Bass stocking with many volunteers helping to
undertake the stocking. A monitoring program being undertaken by I&I NSW is assessing the success of the program, with a report due by December 2010.

Project insights:
- Major commitment is required to achieve joint interstate projects – especially where biosecurity protocols are involved.
- People love fish! And, they are an excellent way of engaging communities with their local river.

Project challenges:
- Accessing Snowy River broodstock; because the natural population is now very low it has taken major efforts by fisheries agencies and local recreational angling groups to source adequate numbers of broodstock to breed from.
- Genetic impunity – due to poor river health there is a high rate of hybridisation between Australian bass and estuary perch, necessitating costly and time-consuming genetic testing of all brood stock to ensure only pure Australian bass are used.
- Interstate challenges; bass had to be collected in Victoria, transported and bred in NSW and some transported back to Victoria for release. This required multiple permits and alignment of different pressures which required considerable agency commitment to make possible.

There is anecdotal evidence that stocked Bass are surviving and growing very well in the Snowy River. It is currently uncertain what the distribution of stocked fish is, with some thought that many are migrating to lower in the river where temperatures are warmer. Ongoing monitoring will be required to assess the full benefits of the stocking events.

Partners: I&I NSW, Dalgety and Bombala Fishing Club, East Gippsland CMA and Victorian agencies.

Funding: NSW Government

Value of project: $87,000 (2009-10)

Image: Snowy River bass stocking.

IMPACTS OF FLOODING ON TIMBER RIVER WORKS IN FAR SOUTH COAST RIVERS

Erosion sites along Wapengo Creek, the Murrah and Bega Rivers have been treated under Southern Rivers CMA’s Bega River Rehabilitation and Priority Coastal Catchment Projects over the last three years.

Until early 2010, structural works at these sites had not been tested by any large flood events. In 2010, two overbank flood events occurred in February and another in June.

Works were designed for flood resilience, ease of sourcing materials, habitat value and cost. They included low cost, lightweight structures such as root balls, brush bundles and pin groynes. Heavier duty works included log walls and fish habitat log groynes. Traditional rock revetment was avoided due to minimal habitat value and cost. Revegetation was undertaken and mangrove establishment was also trialled.

Results after the flood events have shown that all structures were successful in reducing erosion with only minor damage to works. Along the Bega River site there was no erosion of banks or movement of bank aligned tree stumps. However, floodplain revegetation suffered from soil water logging.

At Wapengo Creek where 100 metres of low cost brush bundles were interlocked there was significant build-up of sediment which created a low-lying bench that will provide an ideal platform for future planting or natural colonisation of mangroves. This was despite two floods in February 2010, that generated intense short duration rainfall – up with the highest ever recorded in 100 years of records in Bega.

At the Murrah River site where a number of different structures were trialled over 500 metres minor damage included:
- loss of logs in the lead pin groyne and failure of two brush bundles from large debris
- bank slumping (from drawdown effect) and loss of revegetation works along 30 metres of banks
- damage to floodplain fencing.

Significant positive results at the Murrah River site were:
- no impact to the 70 metre log wall or any of the eight fish habitat groynes
- significant amounts of sand accumulated between pin groynes
- mangroves providing protection to the toe of banks
- trapping of sediment behind 200 metres of brush bundles and subsequent colonisation of salt marsh species
- no loss to two year old floodplain revegetation.

Key learning’s following these flood events have been:
- Heavy duty log structures such as log walls or groynes can be effective alternatives to rock.
• Tree stumps or brush bundles can also be resilient to floods but they need to be interlocked and are better placed away from areas of higher energy (i.e. on straight sections of river or inside bends where wave erosion is a threat to stability). The ability to withstand flood events long enough for vegetation to establish is their weak point.

• The impact of large debris on the integrity of structures is an important design consideration, particularly those located at the upstream extent as they are most likely to bear the brunt of moving material.

**Partners:** Local Landholders and Tathra Beach Country Club

**Funding:** Australian Government’s Caring for our Country initiative and NSW Government’s Catchment Action NSW.

**Value of project:** $150,800

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**TUROSS RIVER REHABILITATION PLAN**

The Tuross River catchment required a strategic, whole of catchment plan to guide the spending of money on NRM projects. In 2008, Southern Rivers CMA began work to develop a whole of catchment river rehabilitation plan.

Over an 18-month period, field work was undertaken to assess the styles, current condition and recovery potential of main creeks and rivers in the Tuross River catchment. Expert geomorphic advice was provided. A range of methods was employed to see the expansive catchment – canoe, boat, helicopter, four wheel drive and bush walking. Field work was followed by a review and critique of all scientific literature on the Tuross River catchment, including information on fish populations and barriers to their movement, sites of erosion, sand deposits in the main river trunk, location of weeds and contemporary sources of sediment.

**Project results:**

A draft Tuross River Rehabilitation Plan has been produced which provides maps for the River’s styles, current condition and recovery. A new sub-style of creek was discovered called Valley Fill (Gravel) – a first for NSW.

The Plan recommends:

• strategic works to be carried out in valley fill creek styles or where active head cuts exist
• the excess sand in the main Tuross River channel to be trapped in situ with revegetation and stock exclusion works
• control of threatening weeds including seeding willows and blackberry
• sediment from roads, tracks and dairy laneways to be controlled
• improving water quality outcomes by implementing water sharing arrangements for irrigators and undertaking projects to remove effluent inputs into the river.

**Project insights:**

The value of investigating a wider catchment to help prioritise catchment works and speaking with a range of stakeholders and landholders to provide historical input and local information were valuable project learnings.

**Project challenges:**

The major challenge of this project was to understand the behaviour, location and consequences of additional sand in the main Tuross River channel as a result of erosion occurring in the past 150 years.

The draft Plan will be available for public comment during 2010-11. It will guide investment in environmental projects.

**Partners:** NSW Department of Water and Energy.

**Funding:** Australian Government’s Caring for our Country initiative and NSW Government.

**Value of the Project:** $7,000
The Southern Rivers CMA region covers 40 per cent of the NSW coastline and 102 diverse estuary systems including drowned river valleys, barrier rivers and lakes and intermittently open creeks and lagoons. The region takes in 2,972 km² of ocean within three nautical miles of the coast, 33 per cent of which are protected in marine parks. The Coast and Marine program aims to promote awareness of how coastal and marine resources are used and to develop partnerships with industries and recreational uses to address issues of concern.

The Coastal and Marine Program is supported by the Coastal and Marine Working Group. This group provides Southern Rivers CMA with expert advice relating to research, program development and funding opportunities, as well as being a creative forum for discussion of coastal and marine ideas. It includes representatives from Southern Rivers CMA, I&I NSW, DECCW, Marine Parks Authority, Southern Councils Group, Coastcare, Oceanwatch Australia and Eden Marine Discovery Centre and representatives from six local government areas.

Furthermore, through ongoing consultation with industry and local government, input is received from the oyster industry and local government estuary management committees.

Performance against CAP targets
Data on program achievements can change significantly between years depending upon where funding for projects is allocated, the types of works completed and investor priorities. Some data collection methodologies have changed over time due to the addition of new data collection protocols. Data collection processes within Southern Rivers CMA were notably different for this financial year resulting in inconsistent data between years. Additional data has had to be collected in order to meet Australian Government reporting requirements. Funding for some on-ground NRM activities was reduced during the 2009-10 year.
### Table Eleven - Coastal and Marine Program CAP Targets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coastal and marine management target CM1 – protecting and rehabilitating the coastline</th>
<th>2008-09 Achievements</th>
<th>2009-10 Achievements</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CM1 By 2016, the condition of coastlines will be maintained or improved through the development and implementation of natural resource management plans</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OG2.1 Area (ha) of coastal vegetation protected by fencing</td>
<td>4.03</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OG2.4 Area (ha) of terrestrial native vegetation protected by fencing</td>
<td>21.8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OG3.1 Area (ha) of coastal native vegetation enhanced/rehabilitated</td>
<td>1,063.04</td>
<td>732</td>
<td>Ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OG3.4 Area (ha) of terrestrial native vegetation enhanced/rehabilitated</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OG4.2 Area (ha) planted to coastal native species</td>
<td>22.87</td>
<td>21.5</td>
<td>Ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OG4.6 Area (ha) planted to terrestrial native species</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OG7.1 Total area (ha) protected by fencing specifically for significant species</td>
<td>362.9</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>Ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area of habitat management</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>Ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OG8.1 Area (ha) of initial pest plant control measures implemented</td>
<td>702.4</td>
<td>732</td>
<td>Ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total length (km) of pest plant control measures implemented</td>
<td>0.132</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>Km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area (ha) of maintenance pest plant control measures implemented</td>
<td>3.69</td>
<td>718</td>
<td>Ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OG8.3 Area (ha) of pest animal control (vertebrates) measures implemented</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OG8.4 Area (ha) of pest control (invertebrates) measures implemented</td>
<td>36.5</td>
<td>44.5</td>
<td>Ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area (ha) of dryland salinity treated</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Ha</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Coastal and marine management target CM2 – protecting and rehabilitating estuaries

CM2 By 2016, the condition of estuaries will be maintained or improved through development and implementation of natural resource management plans (including estuary management plans)

DECCW provide incentives for the implementation of estuary management plans and well as Southern Rivers CMA. In 2008-2009 the plans implemented include:

- St Georges Basin/Sussex Inlet foreshore rehabilitation stage 1,2 and 3
- Swan Lake/Berrara Lagoon, Ski Beach foreshore rehabilitation plan
- Swan Lake, Errol Bond Reserve Foreshore rehabilitation plan
- Lake Conjola Estuary Plan
- Lake Tabourie Estuary Management Plan
- Lake Conjola Boat Ramp Foreshore Rehabilitation
- Shoalhaven River Foreshore Erosion stabilisation Plan
- Greenwell Point Foreshore Plan
- Burrill Lake Entrance Management Policy
- Wapengo Lake Sediment stabilisation project
- Fairy, Towradgi and Hewitts/Tramway Creeks Estuary Management Plan
- Moruya River Estuary Management Plan
- Tomaga Estuary Management Plan
- Tuross and Coila Estuary Management Plan
- Wagonga Estuary Management Plan

In 2009-10 plans implemented through Southern Rivers CMA and DECCW include:

### Estuary Management Plans

- Batemans Bay and Clyde River Estuary Management Plan
- Bega River EMP –draft
- Crooked River Estuary Management Plan
- Estuary Management Plan - Fairy, Towradgi, Hewitt’s and Tramway Creeks
- Lake Illawarra Estuary Management Study and Strategic Plan
- Lake Wollumboola Estuary Management Plan
- Minnamurra River Estuary Management Plan
- Moruya River Estuary Management Plan
- Narrawallee Estuary Management Plan
- Pambula Lake Estuary Management Plan - in progress
- Shoalhaven River Estuary Management Plan
- St Georges Basin Estuary Management Plan
- Swan Lake Estuary Management Plan
- Tabourie Estuary Management Plan
- Tuross Estuary and Coila Lake Estuary Management Plan
- Wagonga Inlet Estuary Management Study and Plan
### NRM Plans

- Action Plan for Revive Three Focus sites - Minnamurra Wetland, Conservation Volunteers Australia 2008
- Bass Point Reserve Plan of Management 2003
- Bass Point Reserve Weed management Strategy 2000
- Clyde River National Park - Draft Plan of Management
- Clyde River Oyster Farmers Environmental Management System
- Coastal Environmental Weeds on the NSW Far South Coast
- Community Land Generic Plan of Management - Natural Areas Shoalhaven City Council
- Eurobodalla National Park Plan Of Management
- Hooded Plover Recovery Plan - Draft
- Illawarra Regional Biodiversity Strategy 2010
- Jervis Bay Regional Environmental Plan
- Little Tern Recovery Plan
- Merimbula Lake Oyster Growers Environmental Management System
- Mimosa Rocks Plan Of Management - Draft
- • Mummuga National Park Plan of Management
- • Narrawallee Creek Nature Reserve - Plan of Management
- • Narrawallee Inlet Natural Resources Strategy
- • NPWS Comerong Island Nature Reserve Plan of Management 1998
- • NPWS Seven Mile Beach Plan of Management 1997
- • Pambula Lake Oyster Growers Environmental Management System
- • Puckey’s Estate Bushland Management Plan 2003
- • Seven Mile Beach National Park - Weed Management Plan 2002
- • South Coast Regional Bitou Bush Strategy 2002
- • South Coast Regional Bitou Bush and Boneseed Regional Management Plan (2007-12)
- • Southern Foreshore Reserve Narrawallee Management Strategy
- • Wapengo Lake Oyster Growers Environmental Management System
- • Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Birds
- • Wonboyn Lake Oyster Growers Environmental Management System

### Achievements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KPI</th>
<th>2008-09 Achievements</th>
<th>2009-10 Achievements</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OG2.3 Area (ha) of riparian native vegetation protected by fencing</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OG2.3 Streambank length (km) of riparian vegetation enhanced/rehabilitated</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OG3.3 Area (ha) of riparian native vegetation enhanced/rehabilitated</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OG3.3 Riparian vegetation (length in km)</td>
<td>1.85</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OG4.4 Area (ha) planted to riparian native species</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OG4.5 Streambank length (km) planted to riparian vegetation (length)</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>Km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OG11.3 Number of off-stream (alternative) watering sites installed</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OG2.2 Area (ha) of wetland native vegetation protected by fencing</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OG3.2 Area (ha) of wetland native vegetation enhanced/rehabilitated</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OG9.1 Treated for soil erosion via engineering works</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1.44</td>
<td>Ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OG9.2 Treated for soil erosion via exclusion fencing</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Length of road treated for sediment input through engineering/roadworks</td>
<td>5.82</td>
<td>2.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Coastal and Marine Management Target CM3 - Sustainable Management of Aquatic/Marine Resources

By 2016, best management practices will be developed and adopted by aquatic/marine industries.

#### 2008-09 and 2009-10

Best management plan actions were implemented with the Oyster industry in Batemans Bay, Clyde River, Tuross Estuary, Wagonga Inlet, Wapengo Lake, Pambula Estuary and Shoalhaven Estuary.

### Coastal and Marine Management Target CM4 - Protecting Aquatic Marine Biodiversity

By 2016, active management will protect or improve key aquatic habitat areas (including for listed threatened/endangered species and ecological communities) in partnership with relevant authorities and user groups.

#### 2008-09

## Table Eleven - Coastal and Marine Program CAP Targets continued

### 2009-10
The protecting our migratory shorebirds and seabirds project continued to be implemented into the 2009-2010 financial year and was completed in March 2010.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Achievements</th>
<th>2008-09</th>
<th>2009-10</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marine Vegetation enhanced rehabilitated</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine Vegetation established</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Ha</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2008-09
Project work is being carried out on Pacific Oyster Control, and Sea Spurge Control.

### 2009-10
Project work is being carried out on Pacific Oyster Control.

### Coastal and marine management target CM5 - conducting strategic coastal and marine research
By 2007, a research strategy will be developed to improve the scientific knowledge and understanding of coastal, estuarine and marine environments and processes; to be progressively implemented by 2016.

### 2008-09
A NSW marine habitat mapping project was completed.

### 2008-10
Southern Rivers CMA is working with the Australian Research Council on two projects:
1: Developing a decision support system for the management of road runoff for coastal water quality protection.
2: Management of Coastal Lakes to Minimise invasion from Green Shore Crabs.

### Community and partnership activities which support the implementation of the Coastal and Marine Program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CB5.1</th>
<th>Total number of groups supported</th>
<th>112</th>
<th>52</th>
<th>No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total number of landholders or individuals supported</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Flow-on effects - number of funding applications supported this quarter</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Flow-on effects - number of funding applications successful this quarter</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Flow-on effects - amount of funding received</td>
<td>993,093</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CB2.1</td>
<td>Number of training sessions, workshops, seminars or other skills and training events</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CB2.2</td>
<td>Number of workbooks, course notes or other key materials developed</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CB1.1</td>
<td>Number of awareness raising events such as demonstrations, field days or study tours</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CB1.2</td>
<td>Number of written products such as brochures, newsletters, posters or fact sheets</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CB1.4</td>
<td>Number of media opportunities resulting in articles in newspapers or radio or TV</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CB1.3</td>
<td>Number of displays for use at events such as regional meetings developed</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CB3.1</td>
<td>Number of key organisational documents produced</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CB3.2</td>
<td>Number of formally documented collaborative arrangements developed</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Case studies

COMMUNITIES CARING FOR LITTORAL RAINFOREST: A NATIONALLY THREATENED ECOCLOGICAL COMMUNITY

Littoral rainforest and coastal vine thickets of Eastern Australia is a critically endangered ecological community listed under the Australian Government’s Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. The ecological community provides habitat for over 70 threatened plants and animals and it provides an important buffer to coastal erosion and wind damage. Littoral rainforest remnants are under threat from weeds, inappropriate fire, clearing, sea level rise and other impacts of climate change.

While some areas of littoral rainforest have been mapped the distribution and extent of littoral rainforest in the Southern Rivers region is unclear. In the Southern Rivers region, coastal volunteer groups have a history of dedicating their time and energy to protecting small areas of littoral rainforest. However, the Australian Government’s 2009-10 Caring for our Country Business Plan provided a new impetus for groups to develop projects with a focus on protecting littoral rainforest.

Through the Southern Rivers CMA’s Caring for our Coasts program, community groups were encouraged to build on previous works and develop integrated projects which aimed to remove Weeds of National Significance and other weeds from areas of littoral rainforest.

Southern Rivers CMA staff were concerned that there may not be enough littoral rainforest remaining to warrant groups applying for funds. However, 36 applications were received from groups looking to undertake protection works across 200 hectares of littoral rainforest, removing over 450 hectares of Weeds of National Significance. In addition, new areas of littoral rainforest have been identified and are in the process of being mapped and prioritised for protection.

With limited resources Southern Rivers CMA primarily focused funding towards those projects which targeted larger stands of remnant rainforest. Funds have been allocated to community groups to help protect 150 hectares of littoral rainforest from critical threats and works are underway.

One project which exemplifies projects funded by Southern Rivers CMA is the Seven Mile Beach Restoration Project, being undertaken by Seven Mile Beach Landcare in partnership with Kiama Municipal Council. The project aims to restore and improve 26.2 hectares of littoral rainforest through primary and secondary weeding and revegetation aimed at closing the rainforest canopy.

Importantly this project complements works being undertaken by CVA and NPWS within the Seven Mile Beach National Park. In total these two projects will act to protect 36 hectares of littoral rainforest at Seven Mile Beach.

All of the projects supported through Caring for our Coasts have a capacity building component which aims to ensure community volunteers are trained in important regeneration, plant identification and weed control skills so they can continue the work past the life of the project.

Southern Rivers CMA would like to support coastal communities to undertake protection works for all the known littoral rainforest stands in the region. An application has been made to the Australian Government for additional funding to direct towards some of the projects that were unable to be funded in the first round of the program.

**Partners:** Thirty-five coastal community groups and five local governments

**Funding:** Australian Government’s Caring for our Country initiative – Engaging Coastal Communities and NSW Government

**Value of project:** $454,000 is being directed towards projects which have a littoral rainforest component

BATTLING THE BITOU BUSH MENACE

Bitou bush poses a serious threat to coastal biodiversity; invading over 80 per cent of the NSW coastline. Following the listing of bitou bush as a Weed of National Significance in 1999, a National and State Bitou Bush Strategy was prepared under the direction of the DECCW. These plans recognise the need for integrated approaches in control and a coordinated and strategic response to arrest the spread and minimise the impact of bitou bush.

Southern Rivers CMA’s Battling the Bitou Bush Menace project contributes to these plans by working with a range of land managers and adopting a suite of best practice management techniques to control bitou bush within nominated strategic sites throughout the Illawarra and Shoalhaven sub-regions. Eleven sites have been selected based on the South Coast Regional Bitou Bush Strategy 2002 and the NSW South Coast Regional Bitou Bush and Boneseed Regional Management Plan (2007-12). The project also builds on previous work undertaken over the
past five years throughout the South Coast. In the Illawarra work was conducted at Hill 60 Port Kembla and Cringila Park. In the Shoalhaven, Seven Mile Beach, Comerong Island, Culburra Beach, Sussex Inlet, Jervis Bay, Manyana, Burrill Lake, Bannister Head and Kiola were the strategic nominated sites.

Primary control of bitou bush over 4 hectares and secondary control to 140 hectares of coastal land was anticipated to be undertaken over the 12 months of this project. However, a total of 324 hectares of on-ground works were achieved, largely due to increased control being achieved at each site allowing for enhanced follow up and greater coverage of each of the sites. In addition, 21.5 hectares of dune and associated coastal native vegetation was also revegetated with 6,980 seedlings planted over the 12 month period.

A diverse range of stakeholders were engaged in partnerships that contributed to the great success of this project. These included the Illawarra District Noxious Weeds Authority, Shoalhaven City Council, Department of Corrective Services’ Community Service Order clients and community groups. Overall, 22 separate community groups have been supported and engaged to perform on-ground works, with useful employment and training of approximately 1,000 Community Service Order participants.

In undertaking this work, this project extended control efforts of agencies and community volunteers, as well as complementing adjoining landholders in a collective program aimed at containing the spread, and reducing the area and distribution of bitou bush throughout the region. Most importantly this project established and enforced the National Southern Containment Zone, thus preventing the spread and impact of bitou bush further south.

This project will continue into 2011, meaning that seven years of Bitou bush control will be successfully implemented along the NSW South Coast. This project highlights the success of the combination of long term funding, strategic planning and active control utilising a range of stakeholders to protect and restore native plant communities previously affected by bitou bush invasion.

**Partners:** Illawarra District Noxious Weeds Authority, Shoalhaven City Council, Department of Corrective Services’ Community Service Order clients and community groups

**Funding:** Australian Government’s Caring for our Country initiative and NSW Government

**Value of project:** $111,960

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**CULTIVATING HEALTHIER OYSTER CATCHMENTS**

Southern Rivers CMA recognises that oyster farmers provide a unique focal point for catchment rehabilitation efforts. Oyster farmers have an intimate understanding of the estuarine environment, and depend on its health and productivity for their livelihood. Southern Rivers CMA is working with the oyster industry and other stakeholders to implement innovative projects in oyster-producing estuaries on the NSW South Coast.
knowledge of the industry enamoured her with growers and ensured their concerns and ideas were effectively incorporated into the EMS. Likewise, ensuring all growers were on board and developing partnerships with key stakeholders was also important. Southern Rivers CMA’s Coastal Catchment Officers have played an important role facilitating meetings and supporting the development of cohesive partnerships. Oyster growers rose to the challenge and have produced some inspiring results:

- 50 per cent of all oyster producing estuaries on the NSW South Coast now have EMS’s
- other oyster growing groups throughout NSW are keen to jump on board and develop their own EMS’s
- action plans have been developed and are being implemented
- rehabilitation projects are underway in all estuaries
- cohesion within and between groups has been enhanced and visions for lakes and the industry have been crystallised
- there has been a marked change in the oyster industry’s awareness and outlook towards environmental best practice
- growers now communicate to the wider community the role of oyster growers as stewards for healthy catchments.

Now that five EMS’s have been completed, it is imperative that the systems remain ‘live’ – action plans must be followed through. To this end, each group has committed to following through on their action plans, and reviewing the EMS on an annual basis to ensure the systems remain current and relevant, cultivating healthier oyster catchments for the future.

Partners: Oyster growing groups in Wapengo, Merimbula, Pambula and Wonboyn, EMS Consultant Ana Rubio, I&I NSW, Oceanwatch Australia and Bega Valley Shire and Eurobodalla Shire Councils.

Funding: Australian Government’s NHT and NSW Government

Value of project: $50,000
The NV Act sets a framework for:
- ending broadscale clearing unless it improves or maintains environmental outcomes
- encouraging revegetation and rehabilitation of land with native vegetation
- reward farmers for good land management.

Under the system Southern Rivers CMA is responsible for:
- providing technical advice and assistance to local landholders to prepare voluntary PVPs
- allocating incentive funding for improving management of native vegetation
- using discretion and professional judgement when assessing clearing proposals
- developing and implementing a CAP that identifies priorities for investment in natural resource assets such as native vegetation
- establish local policies for delivering long-term environmental benefits
- monitoring the progress of PVPs and the CAP.

During the 2009-10 financial year Southern Rivers CMA:
- received 124 enquiries (down from 150 during the previous year)
- conducted 65 sites visits (down from 95 during the previous year)
- approved three clearing PVPs (down from 4 during the previous year)
- approved 13 incentive PVPs and two conservation PVPs, protecting 2857 hectares (31.25 of these hectares are protected in perpetuity)
- consented to the clearing of 2.9 hectares which lead to the active management of 96.4 hectares
- approved one local government Routine Agricultural Management Activity (RAMA) PVP which lead to the active management of 11.38 hectares.
Staffing levels dedicated to administration of the NV Act have increased to 4.8 full-time employees. Additional resourcing has increased the application of property vegetation plans to conservation related activities not associated with clearing (i.e incentive and conservation PVPs) and increased effort into raising awareness of the NV Act amongst development interest groups. It has also allowed Southern Rivers CMA to address demand for native vegetation advice from local government and the Department of Planning.

When the NV Act was initially introduced in 2005, Southern Rivers CMA encouraged a majority of staff to undertake basic training, as the ongoing level of demand for PVP assessments was unclear. The need to shift staff from basic training to full accreditation has remained low as development of PVPs has proven to be specialised work, most effectively done by a small team of staff. Initial demand for incentive PVPs has also been low. Within the Southern Rivers CMA region the option has remained for landholders to sign management agreements rather than PVPs to protect areas of native vegetation.

In 2009-10 the Local Government RAMA mechanism was applied for the first time in the Southern Rivers CMA region. This mechanism is for certain small to medium sized infrastructure projects. In this case it was for a sports field. Southern Rivers CMA successfully negotiated several managed areas for the offset of the clearing site. Portions of the managed areas contain very high conservation value vegetation that is under extreme pressure from urban development on the coastal floodplain.

### Table Twelve - Southern Rivers CMA Native Vegetation Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Staff</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff trained (basic)</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accredited consent staff</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accredited incentive staff</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff undergoing expert buddy training</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accredited experts</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>34</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Local Government

The dual consent situation for many forms of development (i.e. separate consent required under the NV Act and Local Environment Plans (LEPs)) continues to present challenges. Considerable effort continues to be invested to raise the profile of the NV Act within local government through correspondence, presentations and meetings. The instigation of regular bimonthly meetings between planning staff and Southern Rivers CMA staff in a number of local government areas has helped the flow of information on dual consent applications thereby improving the timely assessment of these developments by both councils and Southern Rivers CMA.

Southern Rivers CMA has also continued to work with Councils in incorporating the protection of native vegetation in their new LEPs and associated Development Control Plans. Several Councils have also encouraged, or required, a number of landholders to obtain a Conservation PVP from Southern Rivers CMA to protect areas of significant vegetation as a condition of consent for development applications.

### Biobanking

The profile of the NSW Government’s new Biodiversity Banking and Offsets Scheme (or biobanking) is gradually building momentum. Southern Rivers CMA staff are keeping up-to-date with developments in biobanking by attending workshops and forums. Southern Rivers CMA currently has two accredited officers that can undertake biobanking assessments of clearing associated with development on urban land or on rural land assessed under Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. Accredited staff are also able to develop biobanking agreements for landholders who wish to obtain biodiversity credits that they may sell to developers who wish to offset loss of native vegetation, or to conservation groups, philanthropists and government departments interested in conserving biodiversity in perpetuity.
During the 2010-11 financial year, the NSW Government will provide Southern Rivers CMA with a recurrent budget of $3.43 million to fund its core operational activities and $1.52 million through Catchment Action NSW funding. The Australian Government will provide $2.84 million through its Caring for our Country initiative. Other partnership funding of $2.24 million is planned for 2010-11. The total Southern Rivers 2010-11 budget is $10.23 million.

Following completion of NRC’s pilot CAP projects in the Namoi and Central West CMA regions of NSW, Southern Rivers CMA will commence planning for a comprehensive CAP review during the 2011-12 year. The new CAP will focus on landscape function, resilient NRM systems that are effective in securing environmental and production outcomes and a skilled and engaged community. The completion of the remaining sub-regional NRM Action Plans are essential forerunner to the new CAP development.

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The 2010-11 financial year implementation of a revised Southern Rivers CMA strategic plan will commence. This will be followed by the development of a new Business Plan and Communications Strategic Plan. Southern Rivers CMA will continue its statutory role in native vegetation management. A key activity in 2010-11 will be the coordination of the public exhibition of the draft Policy for native revegetation involving minor clearing of native vegetation in the Southern Rivers CMA region.

During 2010-11, Southern Rivers CMA will further develop its Climate Change program, progress an action plan for Climate Change adaption, and undertake a program of consultation and information sharing with the community and stakeholders.

Many challenges lie ahead for Southern Rivers CMA and its communities. With the support of investors, continued involvement of the community and strong partnerships and effective communication, the CMA will work through these challenges towards a more resilient landscape and community.
10.1 Statement by Board Members

CERTIFICATE UNDER SECTION 41 C (1B) AND (1C) OF THE PUBLIC FINANCE AND AUDIT ACT 1983

Pursuant to the Public Finance and Audit Act, 1983, we declare that in our opinion:

(a) The accompanying financial statements exhibit a true and fair view of the financial position of the Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority as at 30 June 2010, and transactions for the year ended.

(b) The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- The applicable Australian Accounting Standards, which include Australian Accounting Interpretations and other mandatory professional reporting requirements; and
- The requirements of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983, the Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2010 and the Treasurer’s Directions.

(c) There are no circumstances which would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

For and on behalf of the Board

P. Green
Chair & Board Member

M. Muston
Board Member

Dated: 29th September 2010
10 Financials

10.2 Independent Audit Report

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT
Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority

To Members of the New South Wales Parliament

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority (the Authority), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2010, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

Auditor’s Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements:

- present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Authority as at 30 June 2010, and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations)
- are in accordance with section 41B of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983 (the PF&A Act) and the Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2010

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

The Board’s Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The members of the Board are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the PF&A Act. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor’s Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor’s judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to the Authority’s preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority’s internal controls. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the members of the Board as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.
I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion. My opinion does not provide assurance:

- about the future viability of the Authority
- that it has carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically
- about the effectiveness of its internal controls.

Independence

In conducting this audit, the Audit Office of New South Wales has complied with the independence requirements of the Australian Auditing Standards and other relevant ethical requirements. The PFBA Act further promotes independence by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General
- mandating the Auditor-General as auditor of public sector agencies, but precluding the provision of non-audit services, thus ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office of New South Wales are not compromised in their role by the possibility of losing clients or income.

M T Spriggins
Director, Financial Audit Services

13 October 2010
SYDNEY
10.3 Statement of Comprehensive Income for the Year Ended 30 June 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2010 $’000</th>
<th>2009 $’000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>REVENUE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9,721</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total revenue</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>10,688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel services expenses</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4,689</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other operating expenses</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3,830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation and amortisation</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants &amp; subsidies</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2,444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>10,991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>(Deficit) / Surplus for the Year</strong></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>(303)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other comprehensive income for the year</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(303)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above statement of comprehensive income is to be read in conjunction with the attached notes.

10.4 Statement of Changes in Equity for the Year Ended 30 June 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Accumulated Funds $’000</th>
<th>Total $’000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BALANCE AS AT 1 JULY 2009</strong></td>
<td>2,391</td>
<td>2,391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Deficit) for the year</td>
<td>(303)</td>
<td>(303)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other comprehensive income for the year</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BALANCE AS AT 30 JUNE 2010</strong></td>
<td>2,088</td>
<td>2,088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BALANCE AS AT 1 JULY 2008</strong></td>
<td>1,803</td>
<td>1,803</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus for the year</td>
<td>588</td>
<td>588</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other comprehensive income for the year</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BALANCE AS AT 30 JUNE 2009</strong></td>
<td>2,391</td>
<td>2,391</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
10.5 Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2010 $'000</th>
<th>2009 $'000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ASSETS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CURRENT ASSETS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Receivables</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Current Assets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Leasehold Improvements</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Plant and equipment</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Non-Current Assets</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL ASSETS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LIABILITIES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CURRENT LIABILITIES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Payables</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Provisions</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Current Liabilities</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Provisions</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total non-current liabilities</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Liabilities</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NET ASSETS</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EQUITY</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Retained surplus</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL EQUITY</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above statement of financial position is to be read in conjunction with the attached notes.
10.6 Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended 30 June 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2010 $'000</th>
<th>2009 $'000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipts from customers &amp; government</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10,947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payments to suppliers</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(8,349)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>2,598</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and subsidies paid</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(2,444)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest received</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net cash flows from operating activities</strong></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of plant and equipment</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(52)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net cash flows from investing activities</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(52)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET INCREASE / (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CLOSING CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</strong></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4,161</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above statement of comprehensive income is to be read in conjunction with the attached notes.

10.7 Notes to and forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2010

NOTE 1 - REPORTING ENTITY
The Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority (the Authority) was established pursuant to the Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003. The objects of the Act are:
(a) to establish Authorities for the purpose of devolving operational, investment and decision-making natural resource functions to catchment levels;
(b) to provide for proper natural resource planning at a catchment level;
(c) to ensure that decisions about natural resources take into account appropriate catchment issues;
(d) to require decisions taken at a catchment level to take into account State-wide standards and to involve the Natural Resources Commission in catchment planning where appropriate;
(e) to involve communities in each catchment in decision making and to make best use of catchment knowledge and expertise;
(f) to ensure the proper management of natural resources in the social, economic and environmental interests of the State;
(g) to apply sound scientific knowledge to achieve a fully functioning and productive landscape; and
(h) to provide a framework for financial assistance and incentives to landholders in connection with natural resource management.

The Authority is a Statutory Body and a separate reporting entity. There are no other entities under its control. The reporting entity is consolidated as part of the NSW Total State Sector Accounts.

The Authority is a not-for-profit entity (as profit is not its principal objective) and it has no cash-generating units.

These financial statements have been authorised for issue by the Board of the Authority on 29th September 2010

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES
(a) Basis of preparation
The Authority’s financial statements are general purpose financial statements which have been prepared in accordance with:
• The applicable Australian Accounting Standards, which include Australian Accounting Interpretations;
• The requirements of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983 and the Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2010 and the Treasurer’s Directions.

Property, plant and equipment, assets (or disposal groups) held for sale and financial assets at ‘fair value through profit or loss’ and available for sale are measured at fair value. Other financial statement items are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

All amounts are rounded to the nearest one thousand dollars and are expressed in Australian currency.
(b) Statement of compliance
The financial statements and notes comply with the Australian Accounting Standards, which include Australian Accounting interpretations.

(c) Significant accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions

(i) Significant Accounting Judgement
In the preparation of the financial statements, management is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis of making the judgements. Actual results may vary from these estimates.
Key judgements are disclosed as part of accounting policies notes.

(ii) Significant accounting estimates and assumptions
The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods. Judgements made by management in the application of the Australian Accounting Standards that have significant effects on the financial statements and estimates, with a significant risk of material adjustments in the next year are disclosed, where applicable, in the relevant notes to the financial statements.

(d) Revenue recognition
Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration or contribution received or receivable. Additional comments regarding the accounting policies for the recognition of revenue are discussed below:

(i) Contributions from Government and other bodies are generally recognised as income when the authority obtains control over the assets comprising the contributions. Control over contributions is normally obtained upon the receipt of cash.

(ii) Sale of Goods: Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised as revenue when the authority transfers the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the assets.

(iii) Rendering of Services: Revenue is recognised when the service is provided or by reference to the stage of completion (based on labour hours incurred to date).

(iv) Investment Income: Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method as set out in AASB 139 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement.

(e) Insurance
The Authority’s activities are insured through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund scheme of self insurance for Government agencies. The premium expense is determined by the Liability Fund Manager based on past experience and the insurance coverage is reviewed periodically to ensure that it is adequate.

(f) Accounting for the Goods and Services Tax (GST)
Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except:

• The amount of GST incurred by the Authority as a purchaser that is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of an asset or as part of an item of expense.
• Receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included.
The net amount of GST recoverable from or payable to the Australian Taxation Office is included as part of receivables and payables.

Cash flows are included in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis. However, the GST components of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the Australian Taxation Office are classified as operating cash flows.

(g) Acquisition of assets
The cost method of accounting is used for the initial recording of all acquisitions of assets controlled by the Authority. Cost is the amount of cash or cash equivalents paid or the fair value of the other consideration given to acquire the asset at the time of its acquisition or construction or, where applicable, the amount attributed to the asset when initially recognised in accordance with the specific requirements of other Australian Accounting Standards.

Assets acquired at no cost, or for nominal consideration during the year, are initially recognised as assets and revenues at their fair value at the date of acquisition. Fair value is the amount for which an asset could be exchanged between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arm’s length transaction.

Where payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal credit terms, its cost is the cash price equivalent, i.e. deferred payment amount is effectively discounted at an asset-specific rate.

(h) Capitalisation thresholds
Property, plant and equipment and intangible assets costing $5,000 and above individually (or forming part of a network costing more than $5,000) are capitalised. All amounts below $5,000 are expensed to profit and loss as incurred.

(i) Revaluation of plant and equipment
Physical non-current assets are valued in accordance with the “Valuation of Physical Non-Current Assets
at Fair Value” Policy and Guidelines Paper (TPP 07-01). This policy adopts fair value in accordance with AASB 116 Property, Plant and Equipment and AASB 140 Investment Property.

Property, plant and equipment is measured on an existing use basis, where there are no feasible alternative uses in the existing natural, legal, financial and socio-political environment. However, in the limited circumstances where there are feasible alternative uses, assets are valued at their higher and best use.

Fair value of property, plant and equipment is determined based on the best available market evidence, including current market selling price for the same or similar assets. Where there is no available market evidence, the asset’s fair value is measured at its market buying price, the best indicator of which is depreciated replacement cost.

(j) Impairment of plant and equipment

As a not-for-profit entity with no cash-generating units, the Authority is effectively exempt for AASB 136 Impairment of assets and impairment testing. This is because AASB 136 modifies the recoverable amount test to the higher of fair value less costs to sell and depreciated replacement cost. This means that, for an asset already measured at fair value, impairment can only arise if selling costs are material. Selling costs are regarded as immaterial.

(k) Depreciation and amortisation of plant and equipment

Depreciation is provided for on a straight line basis for all depreciable assets, as detailed below, so as to write off the depreciable amount of each asset as it is consumed over its useful life to the Authority.

All material separately identifiable components of assets are depreciated over their shorter useful lives. Estimates of remaining useful lives are made on a regular basis for all assets, with annual reassessments for major items.

The following depreciation rates were applied in 2009/10 and 2008/09:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asset Category</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leasehold Improvements</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant and equipment:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life of lease agreement</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer equipment</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others (i)</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(i) The depreciation rates disclosed were average rates of different types of assets in the Others category.

(l) Major inspection costs

When each major inspection is performed, the labour cost of performing inspections for faults is recognised in the carrying amount of an asset as a replacement of a part, if the recognition criteria are satisfied.

(m) Maintenance

The day-to-day servicing or maintenance costs are charged as expenses as incurred, except where they relate to the replacement of a part or component of an asset, in which case the costs are capitalised and depreciated.

(n) Receivables

Receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. These financial assets are recognised initially at fair value, usually based on the transaction cost or face value. Subsequent measurement is at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less an allowance for any impairment of receivables. Any changes are accounted for in the Statement of comprehensive income when impaired, derecognised or through the amortisation process.

Short term receivables with no stated interest rate are measured at the original invoice amount where the effect of discounting is immaterial.

(o) Investments

Investments are initially recognised at fair value plus, in the case of investments not at fair value through profit or loss, transactions costs. The Authority determines the classification of its financial assets after initial recognition and, when allowed and appropriate, re-evaluates this at each financial year end.

- Fair value through profit or loss-The Hour-Glass Investment Facilities are designated at fair value through profit or loss using the second leg of the fair value option i.e. these financial assets are managed and their performance is evaluated on a fair value basis. In accordance with the Authority’s risk management strategy, information about these assets is provided internally on that basis to the Authority’s key management personnel. Designation at fair value through profit or loss is consistent with the Authority’s risk management policy.

The movement in the fair value of the Hour-Glass Investment facilities incorporates distributions received as well as unrealised movements in fair value and is reported in the line item ‘investment revenue’.

(p) Impairment of financial assets

All financial assets, except those measured at fair value through profit and loss, are subject to an annual review for impairment. An allowance for impairment is established when there is objective evidence that the Authority will not be able to collect all amounts due.

For financial assets carried at amortised cost, the amount of the allowance is the difference between the asset’s carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at the effective interest rate. The amount of the impairment loss is recognised in the surplus/(deficit) for the year.

Any reversal of impairment losses are reversed through surplus/(deficit) for the year, where there is objective
A financial asset is derecognised when the liabilities (have been had there not been an impairment loss). The amount that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had there not been an impairment loss.

**Derecognition of financial assets and financial liabilities**

A financial asset is derecognised when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial assets expire; or if the Authority transfers the financial asset:

- Where substantially all the risks and rewards have been transferred or;
- Where the Authority has not transferred substantially all the risks and rewards, but has not retained control.

Where the Authority has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership or transferred control, the asset is recognised to the extent of the Authority’s continuing involvement in the asset, and an associated liability for amounts it may have to pay.

**Other assets**

Other assets are recognised on a cost basis.

**Liabilities**

(i) **Payables**

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Authority and other amounts. Payables are recognised initially at fair value, usually based on the transaction cost or face value. Subsequent measurement is at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Short-term payables with no stated interest rate are measured at the original invoice amount where the effect of discounting is immaterial.

(ii) **Personnel Services**

(a) Personnel services

The Authority does not employ staff but utilises the personnel services of Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW). The costs of personnel services in respect of wages and salaries, superannuation, annual leave, long service leave, and for sick leave are recognised when it is probable that settlement will be required and they are capable of being measured reliably.

Provision made in respect of benefits expected to be settled within 12 months are measured at their nominal values using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement.

Provisions made in respect of employee benefits which are not expected to settle within 12 months are measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made by the authority in respect of services provided by employees up to reporting date.

The outstanding amounts of payroll tax, workers compensation insurance premium and fringe benefits tax, which are consequential to employment are recognised as liabilities and expenses when the benefits to which they relate have been recognised.

Unused non-vesting sick leave does not give rise to a liability as it is not considered probable that sick leave taken in the future will be greater than the benefits accrued in the future.

(b) **Defined contribution plans**

Contribution to a defined contribution funds, such as Basic Benefit and First State Super, are expensed when incurred. It is calculated as a percentage of the employees’ salary. In 2008/09 and 2009/10, 9% was contributed.

(c) **Long service leave and defined benefits superannuation**

The Authority has no liability for long service leave and defined benefit superannuation. Personnel services are acquired from the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water and the liability of these items has been assumed by the Crown Entity.

(iii) **Provision for restoration of leased premises**

A provision for restoring leased premises has been recognised.

(l) **Assistance provided by other organisations free of charge**

The maintenance of the Authority’s accounting records and provision of corporate services were provided by the Department of Services, Technology and Administration and the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water free of charge under the provisions of the Corporate Services Service Level Agreement. Some agreed services were provided by “ServiceFirst” on a cost recovery basis. The Department of Services, Technology and Administration and the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water cannot reliably estimate the fair value of these services to individual CMA.

In addition, other organisations including community groups provide in kind assistance free of charge. It is not possible to reliably estimate the fair value of these services. Therefore these in kind contributions are not recognised.

(u) **Comparative information**

Except where an Australian Accounting Standard permits or requires otherwise, comparative information is disclosed in respect of the previous period for all amounts reported in the financial statements.

(v) **New Australian accounting standards issue**

In the current year the Authority has adopted all of the new and revised Standards and Interpretations issued.
by the AASB that are relevant to the operations and effective for the current reporting period. Details of the impact of the adoption of these new accounting standards are set out in the individual accounting policies notes in the financial statements.

Certain new accounting standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for 30 June 2010 reporting period. In accordance with the NSW Treasury mandate (TC 10/08), the Authority did not early adopt any of these accounting standards and interpretations that are not yet effective:

- AASB 2009-5 (January 2010) arising from annual improvements project
- AASB 2009-8 (January 2010) regarding share based payments transactions
- AASB 2009-9 (January 2010) regarding additional exemptions for first time adoption
- AASB 2009-10 (February 2010) regarding classification of rights issue
- AASB 9 and AASB 2009-II (January 2013) regarding financial instruments. (This Standard may be applied to annual reporting periods ending on or after 31 December 2009 that begin before 1 January 2013 provided AASB 9 is also applied for the same period.)
- AASB 124 and AASB 2009-12 (January 2011) regarding related party disclosures
- Interpretation 19 and AASB 2009-13 (July 2010) regarding extinguishing financial liability with equity instruments
- AASB 2009-14 (January 2011) regarding prepayments of a minimum funding requirement
- AASB 2010-1 (July 2010) regarding AASB 7 comparatives for first time adopters.
- AASB 2010-2 and AASB 1053 (July 2013) regarding application of Tiers of Australian Accounting Standards
- AASB 2010-4 (January 2011) arising from further amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from annual improvements project

It is considered that the impact of these new standards and interpretations in future years will have no material impact on the financial statements of the Authority.

NOTE 3 – REVENUE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contributions received from:</th>
<th>2010 $’000</th>
<th>2009 $’000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joint State/Commonwealth contributions (i)</td>
<td>4,261</td>
<td>10,520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating grant funding</td>
<td>3,383</td>
<td>3,340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other contributions (ii)</td>
<td>2,077</td>
<td>1,540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,721</strong></td>
<td><strong>15,400</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(i) Contributions were received via the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water towards achieving pre-negotiated natural resources management outcomes.

(ii) Other contributions were received for specific agreed works towards achieving natural resources management outcomes.

NOTE 4 - OTHER INCOME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010 $’000</th>
<th>2009 $’000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Loss) on disposal for consideration of property, plant &amp; equipment</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>(12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>497</td>
<td>1,443</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liability assumed by the crown</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>967</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,988</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE 5 - EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010 $’000</th>
<th>2009 $’000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Personnel services expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and wages (including recreation leave)</td>
<td>3,806</td>
<td>3,899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff on-costs</td>
<td>883</td>
<td>851</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,689</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,750</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other operating expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auditors remuneration (i)</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Member’s remuneration (ii)</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Member’s and Committees costs</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contractors</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fees for services</td>
<td>937</td>
<td>1,167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation and related expenses</td>
<td>439</td>
<td>511</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stores, materials and minor equipment</td>
<td>1,217</td>
<td>1,881</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Plant/vehicle expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>405</strong></td>
<td><strong>636</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertising</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,830</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,892</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and subsidies</td>
<td>2,444</td>
<td>7,133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>10,991</strong></td>
<td><strong>16,800</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(i) Audit fee to The Audit Office of New South Wales for audit of financial report. The auditors received no other benefits.

(ii) Board members received no other benefits.

NOTE 6 - CURRENT ASSETS – CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010 $’000</th>
<th>2009 $’000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current assets – Cash and Cash equivalents</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at bank and on hand</td>
<td>1,277</td>
<td>693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Treasury Corporation – Hour Glass cash facility</td>
<td>2,884</td>
<td>3,165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,161</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,858</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Also refer Note 14 – Financial Instruments
NOTE 7 - CURRENT ASSETS - RECEIVABLES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010 '000</th>
<th>2009 '000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goods &amp; services tax recoverable</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued income</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other amounts receivable</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>350</strong></td>
<td><strong>315</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Debts written off during the period amounted to $nil (2009- $nil)

NOTE 8 - NON-CURRENT ASSETS – PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Leasehold Improvement '000</th>
<th>Plant &amp; Equipment '000</th>
<th>Total '000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>At 1 July 2009</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross carrying amount</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated depreciation and amortisation</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(75)</td>
<td>(75)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET CARRYING AMOUNT</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>At 30 June 2010</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross carrying amount</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated depreciation and amortisation</td>
<td>(2)</td>
<td>(94)</td>
<td>(96)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET CARRYING AMOUNT</strong></td>
<td>47</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RECONCILIATION

A reconciliation of the carrying amount of each class of plant and equipment at the beginning and end of the current reporting year is set out below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year ended 30 June 2010</th>
<th>Leasehold Improvement '000</th>
<th>Plant &amp; Equipment '000</th>
<th>Total '000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net carrying amount at start of year</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additions</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disposals</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation and amortisation expense</td>
<td>(2)</td>
<td>(26)</td>
<td>(28)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET CARRYING AMOUNT AT END OF YEAR</strong></td>
<td>47</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At 1 July 2008

| Gross carrying amount | -                         | 143                    | 143        |
| Accumulated depreciation | -                        | (53)                   | (53)       |
| **NET CARRYING AMOUNT** | -                         | 90                     | 90         |

At 30 June 2009

| Gross carrying amount | -                         | 145                    | 145        |
| Accumulated depreciation | -                        | (75)                   | (75)       |
| **NET CARRYING AMOUNT** | -                         | 70                     | 70         |

RECONCILIATION

A reconciliation of the carrying amount of each class of plant and equipment at the beginning and end of the current reporting year is set out below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year ended 30 June 2009</th>
<th>Leasehold Improvement '000</th>
<th>Plant &amp; Equipment '000</th>
<th>Total '000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net carrying amount at start of year</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additions</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disposals</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(13)</td>
<td>(13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation expense</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(25)</td>
<td>(25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET CARRYING AMOUNT AT END OF YEAR</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NOTE 9 - CURRENT LIABILITIES - PAYABLES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accrued personnel services</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creditors</td>
<td>1,142</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accruals</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>552</td>
<td>1,163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,965</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,279</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Also refer to Note 14 - Financial Instruments.

NOTE 10 - CURRENT/NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES - PROVISIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel services provision</td>
<td>397</td>
<td>429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-costs</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel services provisions and related on-costs</td>
<td>551</td>
<td>573</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restoration of lease premises</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL PROVISIONS</strong></td>
<td><strong>600</strong></td>
<td><strong>573</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Provisions = current

Provisions = non current

TOTAL

600

573

NOTE 11 - NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

Cash

For the purpose of the Statement of cash flows, cash includes cash on hand, in banks and investments in NSW Treasury Corporation Hour Glass facilities.

Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the Statement of cash flows is reconciled to the Statement of financial position in Note 6.

Reconciliation of (deficit) / surplus for the year to net cash flows from operating activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Deficit) / Surplus for the year</td>
<td>(303)</td>
<td>588</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Increase) in receivables</td>
<td>(35)</td>
<td>(49)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase / (decrease) in payables</td>
<td>686</td>
<td>(1,261)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Decrease) in provisions</td>
<td>(22)</td>
<td>(21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss on sale of asset</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</strong></td>
<td><strong>355</strong></td>
<td><strong>706</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Authority operates on a multi year investment strategy, consequently the surplus/deficit for any one financial year should not be viewed in isolation.

NOTE 12 - COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE

(a) Other expenditure commitments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not later than one year</td>
<td>758</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Later than one year and not later than 5 years</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL (INCLUDING GST)**

758

89

The commitments above include GST of $68,919 contingent asset (2009: $8,122), expected to be recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office.

(b) Operating lease commitments

Aggregate operating lease commitments for office accommodation and motor vehicles. Contracted but not provided for at balance date, payable:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not later than one year</td>
<td>499</td>
<td>498</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Later than one year and not later than 5 years</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>440</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL (INCLUDING GST)**

709

938

The commitments above include GST of $64,531 contingent asset (2009: $79,000), expected to be recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office.

(c) Natural resources investment projects commitments

Aggregate commitments under contract for projects to deliver agreed natural resource outcomes. Contracted but not provided for at balance date, payable:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not later than one year</td>
<td>1,186</td>
<td>1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Later than one year and not later than 5 years</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL (INCLUDING GST)**

1,186

1,200

The commitments above include GST of $107,819 contingent asset (2009: $109,135), expected to be recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office.

(d) Finance Lease Payable Commitments

The Authority did not have any lease payable commitments at balance date.
NOTE 14 - FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Authority’s principal financial instruments are outlined below. These financial instruments arise directly from the Authority’s operations or are required to finance the Authority’s operations. The Authority does not enter into or trade financial instruments, including derivative financial instruments, for speculative purposes.

The Authority’s main risks arising from financial instruments are outlined below, together with the Authority’s objectives, policies and processes for measuring and managing risk. Further quantitative and qualitative disclosures are included throughout this financial statement.

The Authority’s Board has overall responsibility for the establishment and oversight of risk management and reviews and agrees policies for managing each of these risks. Risk management policies are established to identify and analyse the risks faced by the Authority, to set risk limits and controls and to monitor risks. Compliance with policies is reviewed by the Authority’s Board on a continuous basis.

a) Financial instrument categories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Assets</th>
<th>Note</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Carrying Amount 2010 $’000</th>
<th>Carrying Amount 2009 $’000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>4,161</td>
<td>3,858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receivables¹</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Loans and receivables (at amortised cost)</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Liabilities</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Carrying Amount 2010 $’000</th>
<th>Carrying Amount 2009 $’000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payables²</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost</td>
<td>1,965</td>
<td>1,279</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
1. Excludes statutory receivables and prepayments (i.e. not within scope of AASB 7).
2. Excludes statutory payables and unearned revenue (i.e. not within scope of AASB 7).

b) Credit risk

Credit risk arises when there is the possibility of the Authority’s debtors defaulting on their contractual obligations, resulting in a financial loss to the Authority. The maximum exposure to credit risk is generally represented by the carrying amount of the financial assets (net of any allowance for impairment).

Credit risk arises from the financial assets of the Authority, including cash, receivables and Authority deposits. No collateral is held by the Authority. The Authority has not granted any financial guarantees.

Credit risk associated with the Authority’s financial assets, other than receivables, is managed through the selection of counterparties and establishment of minimum credit rating standards. Authority’s deposits held with NSW TCorp are guaranteed by the State.

(i) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash comprises cash on hand, in banks and investment with the NSW Treasury Corporation Hour-Glass facilities. The TCorp Hour Glass cash facility is discussed in para (d) overleaf.

(ii) Receivables - trade debtors

All trade debtors are recognised as amounts receivable at balance date. Collectibility of trade debtors is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Procedures as established in the Treasurer’s Directions are followed to recover outstanding amounts, including letters of demand. Debts which are known to be uncollectible are written off. An allowance for impairment is raised when there is objective evidence that the entity will not be able to collect all amounts due. This evidence includes past experience, and current and expected changes in economic conditions and debtor credit ratings. No interest is earned on trade debtors.

The Authority is not materially exposed to concentrations of credit risk to a single trade debtor or group of debtors. Based on past experience, debtors that are not past due (2010: $127,701; 2009: $55,532) and not less than 1 month past due (2010: $Nil; 2009: $2,280) are not considered impaired and together these
represent 97% of the total trade debtors. Most of the Authority’s debtors have a good credit rating. There are no debtors which are currently not past due or impaired whose terms have been renegotiated.

The credit risk is the carrying amount (net of any allowance for impairment). The carrying amount approximates net fair value. Sales are made on 30 day terms. No interest is earned on trade debtors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total ($’000)</th>
<th>Past due but not impaired ($’000)</th>
<th>Considered impaired ($’000)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 3 months overdue</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 months – 6 months overdue</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 6 months overdue</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 3 months overdue</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 months – 6 months overdue</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 6 months overdue</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No interest is owed on trade debtors.

The ageing analysis excludes statutory receivables, as these are not within the scope of AASB 7 and excludes receivables that are not past due and not ‘impaired’. Therefore, the total will not reconcile to the receivables total recognised in the statement of financial position.

(iii) Other financial assets

The Authority has placed funds on deposit with TCorp, which has been rated “AAA” by Standard and Poor’s. These deposits are similar to money market or bank deposits and can be placed “at call” or for a fixed term. For fixed term deposits, the interest rate payable by TCorp is negotiated initially and is fixed for the term of the deposit, while interest rate on at call deposits can vary.

Deposits at 30 June 2010 were earning an average interest rate 4.51% (2008-09 3.03%) while over the year the average interest rate was 3.63% (2008-09 4.57%).

c) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Authority will be unable to meet its payment obligations when they fall due. The Authority continuously manages risk through monitoring future cash flows and maturities planning to ensure adequate holding of high quality liquid assets. The objective is to maintain a balance between continuity of funding and expenditure.

During the current and prior years, there were no defaults or breaches on any payables. No assets have been pledged as collateral. The Authority’s exposure to liquidity risk is deemed insignificant based on prior periods’ data and current assessment of risk.

The liabilities are recognised for amounts due to be paid in the future for goods or services received, whether or not invoiced. Amounts owing to suppliers (which are unsecured) are settled in accordance with the policy set out in Treasurer’s Direction 219.01.

If trade terms are not specified, payment is made no later than the end of the month following the month in which an invoice or a statement is received. Treasurer’s Direction 219.01 allows the Minister to award interest for late payment. The rate of interest applied during the year was Nil% (2009: Nil%).

The table below summarises the maturity profile of the Authority’s financial liabilities, together with the interest rate exposure.

Image: Narooma.
Interest Rate Exposure Maturity Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weighted Average Effective Int. Rate</th>
<th>Nominal Amount '000's</th>
<th>Fixed Interest rate</th>
<th>Variable Interest rate</th>
<th>&lt; 1 year '000's</th>
<th>1-5 years</th>
<th>&gt; 5 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payables:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued salaries and wages</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creditors and accruals</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1,905</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,905</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>1,965</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,965</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payables:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued salaries and wages</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creditors and accruals</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1,228</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,228</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>1,279</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,279</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**d) Market risk**

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The Authority’s exposures to market risk are primarily through price risks associated with the movement in the unit price of the Hour Glass Investment facilities. The Authority does not have any borrowings. The Authority has no exposure to foreign currency risk and does not enter into commodity contracts.

The effect on profit and equity due to a reasonably possible change in risk variable is outlined in the information below, for interest rate risk and other price risk. A reasonably possible change in risk variable has been determined after taking into account the economic environment in which the Authority operates and the time frame for the assessment (i.e. until the end of the next annual reporting period). The sensitivity analysis is based on risk exposures in existence at the balance sheet date. The analysis is performed on the same basis for 2009. The analysis assumes that all other variables remain constant.

**e) Interest rate risk**

As the Authority has no interest bearing liabilities its exposure to interest rate risk is minimal. The Authority does not account for any fixed rate financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss or as available for sale. Therefore for these financial instruments a change in interest rates would not affect profit or loss or equity. A reasonably possible change of +/- 1% is used, consistent with current trends in interest rates. The basis will be reviewed annually and amended where there is a structural change in the level of interest rate volatility. The Authority’s exposure to interest rate risk is set out below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Carrying amount '000</th>
<th>Profit '000</th>
<th>Equity '000</th>
<th>Profit '000</th>
<th>Equity '000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2010</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>4,161</td>
<td>(41)</td>
<td>(41)</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receivables</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial liabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payables</td>
<td>1,965</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>(20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2009</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>3,858</td>
<td>(39)</td>
<td>(39)</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receivables</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial liabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payables</td>
<td>1,279</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>(13)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
f) Other price risk

Exposure to ‘other price risk’ primarily arises through the investment in the TCorp Hour Glass Investment facilities, which are held for strategic rather than trading purposes. The Authority has no direct equity investments. The Authority holds units in the following Hour-Glass investment trusts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Investment Sectors</th>
<th>Investment Horizon</th>
<th>2010 $'000</th>
<th>2009 $'000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash Facility</td>
<td>Cash, Money market instruments</td>
<td>Up to 2 years</td>
<td>2,884</td>
<td>3,165</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The unit price of each facility is equal to the total fair value of net assets held by the facility divided by the total number of units on issue for that facility. Unit prices are calculated and published daily.

NSW TCorp as trustee for each of the above facility is required to act in the best interest of the unitholders and to administer the trusts in accordance with the trust deeds. As trustee, TCorp has appointed external managers to manage the performance and risks of each facility in accordance with a mandate agreed by the parties. However, TCorp, acts as manager for part of the Cash Facility. A significant portion of the administration of the facilities is outsourced to an external custodian.

The Authority uses Level 2 hierarchy for the Hour Glass Investment Cash Facility as the prices are observable, however, no active market exists for the facilities as they are only accessible to government agencies.

Investment in the Hour Glass facilities limits Authority’s exposure to risk, as it allows diversification across a pool of funds, with different investment horizons and a mix of investments.

NSW TCorp provides sensitivity analysis information for each of the facilities, using historically based volatility information collected over a ten-year period, quoted at two standard deviations (i.e., 95% probability). The TCorp Hour Glass Investment facilities are designated at fair value through profit or loss and therefore any change in unit price impacts directly on profit (rather than equity). A reasonably possible change is based on the percentage change in unit price (as advised by TCorp) multiplied by the redemption value as at 30 June each year for each facility (balance from Hour-Glass statement).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact on profit/loss</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Change in unit price</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hour Glass Investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash Facility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(29)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(32)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

g) Fair value

Financial instruments are generally recognised at cost, with the exception of the TCorp Hour Glass facilities, which are measured at fair value. As discussed, the value of the Hour Glass Investments is based on Authority’s share of the value of the underlying assets of the facility, based on the market value. All of the Hour Glass facilities are valued using ‘redemption’ pricing.

The amortised cost of financial instruments recognised in the statement of financial position approximates the fair value, because of the short-term nature of many of the financial instruments.

NOTE 15 - AFTER BALANCE DATE EVENTS

There are no significant events subsequent to balance date.

End of audited financial statements
10.8 Financial summary

Table Thirteen - Quarterly Summary of Accounts Payable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quarter</th>
<th>Current (ie within due date)</th>
<th>Less than 30 days overdue</th>
<th>Between 30 and 60 days overdue</th>
<th>Between 60 and 90 days overdue</th>
<th>More than 90 days overdue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>26,031</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>20,911</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>63,086</td>
<td>57,163</td>
<td>8,032</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>1,174,051</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>221</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table Fourteen - Accounts Paid on Time Within Each Quarter

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quarter</th>
<th>Total Accounts Paid on Time</th>
<th>Total Amount Paid</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Target %</td>
<td>Actual %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes on table fourteen: Percentage of accounts paid on time is based on Systems Application Processing (SAP) Payment Analysis Report, which compares vendor master file payment terms, invoice document date and payment document date to determine if payment was made on time, and if not, how many days it was late. The dollar value is the actual dollar value of the documents in each column (ie paid on time, not paid on time), so the percentage is based on documents, not dollar value.

CONSULTANTS ENGAGED

No expenditure was incurred by Southern Rivers CMA on consultants during the financial year.

COMMENTS:

Initiatives to improve payment performance include:

- tightened controls to ensure correct data entry of payment terms and invoice dates in SAP
- prioritised vouchers as they were received by Financial operations so invoices due for payment first were processed first
- used extra resources, to ensure smooth workflow during peak periods
- improved compliance with the tax system by vendors and staff

Funds to Non-Government Organisations

During 2009-10 Southern Rivers CMA directed a total of $1,094,144.25 in funding to non-government organisations, including $288,250 to Landcare groups, $119,129.52 to Aboriginal groups, $383,024.73 to environment groups and $303,740 to dairy industry groups in the Southern Rivers region.

Penalty Interest Paid

There were no penalty interest payments during 2009-10.

Payment by Corporate Card

Subject to meeting departmental requirements, eligible staff members are issued with corporate cards to facilitate travel, accommodation and limited purchases.

Corporate card policies represent best practice in accordance with Treasury and the Auditor General’s guidelines. The Corporate Card Guidelines/Procedures satisfy the requirements of the Revised Treasurer’s Directions TD 205.01-205.08 and was based on the NSW Treasury Review of Credit Card Use Best Practice Guide (TPP 99-2). Corporate card expenditures are monitored for compliance with guidelines on a transaction basis and usage was considered to comply with best practice guidelines. Southern Rivers CMA incurred no late payment fees as a result of corporate card usage.
Managing our Business

CONSUMER RESPONSE AND CUSTOMER SERVICE
Southern Rivers CMA provides a range of media releases, brochures, reports and guidelines, published in hard copy and on its internet site to inform stakeholders of its services, plans and initiatives. Southern Rivers CMA welcomes feedback from its stakeholders.

PRIVACY AND PERSONAL INFORMATION PROTECTION ACT 1998
In 2009-10 there were no requests for access to documents, no applications for an internal review and no complaints under the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998. DECCW as part of its operational support services to NSW CMAs, has a Privacy Management Plan governing the collection, retention, accuracy, use and disclosure of personal information, including rights of access and correction.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1989
The public has the right to apply for access to documents held by Southern Rivers CMA in accordance the Freedom of Information Act 1989 (FOI Act). This applies to documents created by Southern Rivers CMA as well as those supplied to Southern Rivers CMA. These may include, but are not limited to internal working papers, correspondence from Ministers and Members of Parliament, government departments and agencies, members of the public and the private sector, and financial records.

Southern Rivers CMA received no requests for information under the FOI Act. This is consistent with previous annual reporting.

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION (PUBLIC ACCESS) ACT 2009
The new Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA Act) will replace the NSW Freedom of Information Act 1989 from 1 July 2010. This new right to information law aims to promote openness, accountability and transparency. The GIPA Act applies to all information created and/or held by NSW government agencies and sets out how and when agencies should release information based on a new public interest test. To withhold information from public access under the GIPA Act, agencies will have to establish that there is an overriding public interest against disclosure.

Southern Rivers CMA aims to be transparent and recognises the public has a right to access most information held by the organisation, in so far as it does not infringe privacy laws or other laws or that the release of such information may be of detriment to an organisation, person or environment.

Southern Rivers CMA aims to publish plans, reports, products and relevant documents on its website at www.southern.cma.nsw.gov.au.

The New South Wales’ Office of the Information Commissioner, is working with NSW Government agencies to assist them in preparing for the introduction of the GIPA Act. Agencies have until December 2010 to comply with the new reforms.

Commencing July 2010, Southern Rivers CMA will undertake a review and implement the requirements of the GIPA Act.

Minimising our Impact

WASTE
Southern Rivers CMA is committed to the NSW Government’s Waste Reduction and Purchasing Policy and environmental sustainability by implementing practices which minimise the organisation’s impact on the environment. Southern Rivers CMA promotes recycling of office paper and packaging through the provision of dedicated paper bins. Office supplies, including facsimile and toner cartridges are returned to suppliers for recycling. Southern Rivers CMA uses recycled paper where appropriate, and provides duplex printing (two-sided printing) on printers to reduce its paper use. Staff are encouraged to minimise printing and use duplex printing.

ENERGY MANAGEMENT
Southern Rivers CMA has adopted DECCW’s Energy Management Policy and Practices. Southern Rivers CMA is committed to reducing energy consumption by using more energy-efficient vehicles in its fleet and increasing use of teleconferences to reduce staff travel. During 2009-10 Southern Rivers CMA purchased and installed a smart board for its Wollongong Office and researched the use of Skype and Message Stick for teleconferencing. The CMA is currently awaiting advice from Service First regarding teleconferencing technology. Southern Rivers CMA staff are encouraged to reduce energy consumption by switching off computers and office equipment each day.

SOUTHERN RIVERS CMA ENERGY AUDIT REPORT
During December 2009, as part of the Green Steps program and in affiliation with Australian National University, an energy audit was undertaken for four of six Southern Rivers CMA offices: Batemans Bay, Bega, Braidwood and Cooma.

The audit included an assessment of lighting, computers, photocopiers, scanners, printers, facsimile machines and all electrical appliances. The findings of the energy audit included key problem areas, possible solutions and possible action plans.

The audit recommendations for improving Southern Rivers CMA energy efficiency included:

- work in a room with natural light instead of fluorescent lighting or turn off lights for the brightest part of the day
- rearrange some offices to allow access to windows
- remove an appropriate number of light tubes from light banks to reduce electricity costs and greenhouse gas emission (staff comfort dependent)
- change and/or reduce air conditioning usage by opening windows and doors or using a pedestal fan
- investigate longer term option/cost benefit of installing ceiling fans
- place signs on computers, doorways, near light switches and exits to encourage staff to turn off lights and electronic and electrical appliances (including switching these appliances off during the day when idle or not in use, not just during non-office hours)
- investigate insulation situation for some offices including possibility of double glazing windows (landlord dependent)
- set up a Green Committee to support and encourage behavioural change.

Southern Rivers CMA will implement the recommendations of the Energy Audit Report in 2010-11.
Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority supports local communities, farmers and other land managers, Landcare, government agencies, Aboriginal people, local government and industry in working together to address the many issues affecting the health of our land, water and sea in the region.

The Southern Rivers region extends from Stanwell Park in the north to the Victorian border in the south, and includes the catchments of the Shoalhaven, Snowy and Genoa Rivers to the west and three nautical miles to sea to the east.

Through Southern Rivers CMA’s partnerships and programs, the NSW and Australian Governments provide funding for strategic on-ground works and activities that help protect and restore our natural resources.