

MEDIA ALERT

21st July 2005

Forum to highlight impact of climate change in North East

A public forum in Beechworth later this year will offer landholders, local government and business a practical insight into the regional impacts of global climate change.

The North East Catchment Management Authority (NECMA) is organising a one-day climate change conference in response to community demand for information:

Date: Friday, 11 November 2005
Venue: La Trobe University, Beechworth, Victoria

Climate change and global warming emerged as key areas of concern during regional community forums run by the North East Catchment Management Authority in 2004. Both are listed as threatening processes in the Region's Catchment Strategy.

NECMA Chief Executive, Mr John Riddiford said the 1998 floods, 2002 drought and 2003 bushfires were examples of extreme climate events in the North East region.

" People know that climate change is real. This forum will offer practical, current and credible information so that people can make informed business and management decisions, particularly in terms of agriculture and natural resources.

The climate change forum will feature guest speakers drawn from leading science, business and environmental management organisations. The format will include;

- ❑ An overview of global warming and climate change at the international, national and local level;
- ❑ A forecast of climate change impacts on the North East Region, especially for primary production and management of key natural resources and;
- ❑ An insight into opportunities for adapting to change, including changes to production and alternative agricultural enterprises.

For further information about this event or to register interest in attending, contact: Fiona Shanks-Colla, Executive Assistant, North East Catchment Management Authority.

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The North East CMA region – key facts:

- covers approximately 1.9 million hectares of North East Victoria;
- contributes an estimated \$3.24 billion to the National economy each year;
- supplies 38% of total water to the Murray Darling Basin;
- key industries include agriculture, forests, tourism and valued added processing;
- more than 55 per cent consists of public land.