



NORTH EAST  
CATCHMENT  
MANAGEMENT  
AUTHORITY

## MEDIA ALERT

13 February 2006

### Funding boost for sustainable 'mixed dozen'

Twelve sustainable agriculture projects from Victoria's North East are set to receive a significant funding boost.

The Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, The Hon Peter McGauran, will announce details next week at the launch of the 2005/2006 National Landcare Community Support Program in Corryong.

The projects funded in the North East will involve vignerons, Landcare groups, farmers and beef cattle producers and cover an area that stretches from the High Plains, to the King Valley and Upper Murray.

The National Landcare Program launch will be held as follows

Date: **Monday 20 February 2006**  
Time: 11.30am  
Venue: Towong Racecourse, Murray River Road, Towong, Victoria (Ref: CFA Map 233), 10km from Corryong airport.

The 12 projects will receive a significant funding injection of nearly \$1 million, covering a range of sustainable agricultural projects including improving soil health, incentives for increased horticultural production whilst achieving positive natural resource management outcomes, improving nutrient retention and improving the quality of surface water runoff, amongst other projects. All projects are innovative and provide for both positive benefits of sustaining our natural resource assets and increasing agricultural output.

The North East Catchment Management Authority will introduce a new Manager of Sustainable Agribusiness at the Corryong event.

This new position was jointly developed by the North East CMA and the Australian Alpine Valleys Agribusiness Forum and is funded through the National Landcare Program office, The Department of Primary Industries - Victoria, Australian Alpine Valleys Agribusiness Forum, and the 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.