



NORTH EAST
CATCHMENT
MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY

MEDIA RELEASE

5 March 2007

‘Flood train’ part of winning formula for Border conference bid

Albury Wodonga is set to host the first joint NSW and Victorian Flood Management conference in 2009.

More than 450 delegates are expected to attend the conference to address floodplain management issues and consider responses from the international, national, state and regional perspective.

A bid for the event developed by Albury City, the City of Wodonga, Destination Albury Wodonga and the North East Catchment Management Authority (CMA) was selected by the Flood Management Authorities of NSW in Gunnedah late last week.

According to Albury Deputy Mayor, Cllr Kevan Porter, the selection panel were impressed by the Region’s location, facilities and its innovative approach to running field trips focussed on the Murray flood plain.

Mr John Riddiford, the CEO of the North East Catchment Management Authority accompanied Cllr Porter at the Gunnedah presentation.

“Albury Wodonga is ideally situated to deliver on the conference theme, *‘Bridging the States - one floodplain, one unified approach’*”, said Mr Riddiford.

“ Delegates will be especially interested in large-scale infrastructure developments like the construction of the Albury Wodonga freeway bypass on the Murray floodplain and the recently refurbished Hume Dam wall. They will also very interested in the rising frequency of damaging flash floods which may be linked to climate change “ said Mr Riddiford.

The winning bid featured innovative themes and events, one of which will be a special train from which delegates can to view the many major floodplain structures and features of the Murray floodplain.

“ Forget the debt truck, forget the drought bus, we are introducing the flood train!, “ said Mr Riddiford.

For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact:

Mary-Anne Scully, North East CMA Media & Communications Consultant – Tel: **0408 685 225**