

# MEDIA RELEASE

5 June 2007



## Recent rainfalls good news for river health

Widespread rainfall across North East Victoria is providing a much needed health boost to the Region's waterways.

While the drought is not yet over, rainfall during May has generated significant run-off into rivers and streams.

“ Two of our Region's major storages, Lake Buffalo and Lake William Hovell, are spilling over for the first time in two years , “ said John Riddiford, CEO of the North East CMA.

After such an extended dry period, the Region received eleven days of rain during May and snow is appearing on the mountains.

“ Soils are nearing saturation and our water storages are recovering. Only two months ago water was being pumped from Lake Buffalo, “said Mr Riddiford.

If current inflows continue, the North East CMA estimates that it will take 150 days to double the storage in Dartmouth – currently just above 10% of capacity.

Most of the North East recorded between 100 (one hundred) and 200 (two hundred) millimetres of rain during May.

Significantly less rainfall was recorded on the East Gippsland side of the ranges.

In Wodonga, 94 millimetres was recorded during the month with a year to date (31 May 07) total of 211 millimetres, compared with eleven millimetres for the same period last year.

The North East Catchment Management Authority is the caretaker of river health in the North East Region.

The CMA has a comprehensive works program to protect and restore river health and plays an important role in the development of flood studies and flood plain management plans.

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John Riddiford is available for interviews on Tuesday, 5 June 2007.

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

Vanessa Clarke – North East CMA – **Tel: (02) 6043 7600** or

Mary-Anne Scully, Media & Communications Consultant **Tel: 0408 685 225**