



Department of
**Sustainability
and Environment**



Media Release

From the Department of Sustainability and Environment and North East Catchment Management Authority

Tuesday, 11 March 2008

Community Ideas Sought for Ovens River Native Fish project

People interested in the future of native fish populations along the Ovens River are encouraged to attend an information evening about an innovative project planned for Wangaratta.

The North East Catchment Management Authority (CMA) and the Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research (Department of Sustainability and Environment) are seeking community ideas and involvement in a "Demonstration Reach" project for the Ovens River above Wangaratta.

As part of the project, the North East CMA and DSE will undertake and monitor a series of works on large sections of the Ovens (called 'Demonstration Reaches') to assess and demonstrate the benefits of integrated works.

"We've scheduled works like fencing and weed control to help improve vegetation along the Ovens. We'll also be resnagging and improving fish passage," North East CMA Waterways Project Officer – Ovens Basin, Anthony Wilson, said.

According to Mr Wilson, a strong partnership with the community will help ensure the success of the native fish project.

"There are many ways that people can get involved in this project, such as helping with on-ground works, setting up a reference group, or simply attending information sessions about the process," he said.

"By working together, we can achieve economies of scale and deliver long term benefits for native fish and the health of the Ovens River."

The North East CMA and DSE recently started preliminary assessment studies and monitoring of sites at and around the Ovens River for the native fish project.

People interested in learning more about the Native Fish Demonstration Reach project are encouraged to attend a community meeting in Wangaratta:

Date: Tuesday, 25 March
Time 6.00pm for a 6.30pm start
Venue: Wangaratta RSL Club, 76 Reid St, Wangaratta

Bar will be open (at bar prices) with light supper of tea, coffee, and biscuits provided.

For further media information, please contact Fern Hames, DSE Native Fish Strategy Coordinator for Victoria on (03) 5772 0273.

~ end ~