

Wednesday, 8 July, 2009

NEW NORTH EAST CMA BOARD ANNOUNCED

The Brumby Labor Government has appointed new board members to the North East Catchment Management Authority (CMA) following an extensive selection process.

Environment and Climate Change Minister Gavin Jennings said he was delighted more than 300 people applied to become a member on one of Victoria's 10 CMA boards.

"To have so many skilled people wanting to get involved in the boards is a great result for Victoria's environment," Mr Jennings said.

"The CMA board members will help the Brumby Labor Government take action to tackle significant environmental challenges such as climate change, drought and water resource management.

"The skills and experience the board members bring to their new roles will help Victorians to reduce their ecological impact while ensuring community views on land, biodiversity, water resource and waterway priorities are effectively conveyed to government.

"Catchment management in Victoria is a partnership between community and government and the combination of new and experienced people on these boards will ensure this partnership continues to embrace new ideas while making the most of past knowledge and relationships."

Each CMA has a board of eight members and a chairperson responsible for developing strategic direction for land, biodiversity and water resource management in their areas. New CMA chairpersons were announced in March 2009.

North East Chair Paul Carrick said he was looking forward to working with a new, highly skilled and enthusiastic board.

"I'm looking forward to engaging with the community and supporting landholders adapt to the challenge of climate change through Landcare and other practical initiatives such as environmental grants," Mr Carrick said.

"I would also like to thank the outgoing Board members for their contribution, in particular the outgoing Chair Sarah Nicholas, who made a very significant contribution to North East CMA during her past decade of service."

(Full list of appointees attached)

North East CMA Chair and Board Members

Chairperson

Mr Paul Carrick: holds a Bachelor of Arts degree and has a wide range of experience in land and water resource management issues. He has been the owner/operator of a beef farm for more than 10 years. Mr Carrick has previously held senior executive roles and is a new appointee as chair.

Board members

Ms Susan Benedyka: holds qualifications in business and financial management, and has completed the Australian Rural Leadership Program and the Australian Institute of Company Directors course. She has extensive experience in community engagement, regional and strategic planning and is Managing Director of The Regional Development Company. Ms Benedyka is a new appointee.

Ms Lyn Coulston: holds qualifications in science and horticulture and has extensive experience in local government, governance and community leadership. She is owner/manager of Mountain Creek Native Plant Nursery and has been a board member since 2000.

Mr Anthony Griffiths: holds qualifications in public administration and community leadership and has extensive experience in local government, water resources management, natural resources management and primary industry. He is an Administrative Officer with the Australian Taxation Office and has been a board member since 2000.

Mr Greg Hayes: holds qualifications in science and agricultural science and has extensive experience in strategic planning, evaluation, project planning and farming. He is a part-time Director of his own farming property and has been a board member since 2006.

Mr Anthony Jarvis: holds qualifications in applied science (agriculture) and has extensive experience in primary production and land management. He is owner/manager of his own farming operation and has been a board member since 2006.

Dr Alison Mitchell: holds qualifications in environmental science, natural resources management policy and planning and is engaged in further geographic information systems studies. She has extensive experience as an aquatic ecologist and is a teacher at the NSW TAFE National Environment Centre at Thurgoona. Dr Mitchell is a new appointee.

Mr Ray Park: holds qualifications in accounting, local government, management and business and has extensive experience in finance, planning and management. He is Director, Business Services with the Rural City of Wangaratta. Mr Park has been a board member since 2006.

Mr Bernard Young: holds qualifications in forestry and forestry science and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He has extensive experience in local government and forestry management and is Executive Officer of Plantations North East Inc, based in Wangaratta. Mr Young is a new appointee.