

MEDIA RELEASE

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VOLUNTEERS HELPING TO REJUVENATE BURNT CREEKS

New signs of life will soon emerge along fire-damaged areas of Barwidgee Creek at Mudgegonga and Havilah Creek at Rosewhite.

Over the next few weeks, the North East Catchment Management Authority (CMA) will be working with Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) to revegetate a number of sites where burnt-out willow blockages were removed.

CVA is coordinating teams of volunteers who are helping to reinstate native trees and aquatic plants along these burnt out waterways in an effort to address erosion, improve water quality and to re-establish wildlife corridors.

The North East CMA has fenced out many sites along both creeks to prevent trampling and erosion damage by livestock.

This important environmental repair work was funded by an allocation of \$907,000 for fire recovery work through the Federal Government's Caring for our Country Victorian Bushfire Recovery Package.

North East CMA Manager of River Health Operations, Mr Peter Sacco, welcomed the involvement of CVA volunteers in the ongoing fire recovery effort.

" Many of these volunteers are from Melbourne and some are from overseas. This project gives people from outside our region an opportunity to travel to the north east and lend a helping hand in the recovery effort."

The North East CMA and CVA plan to work together on more joint projects.

" Rehabilitation of waterways is a crucial and ongoing part of the fire recovery effort," concluded Peter Sacco.

" We have moved from an urgent repair focus to prevention of future environmental problems."

Photo/interview opportunities:

For further information or to arrange an interview please contact:

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