

CATCH UP



**NORTH EAST
CATCHMENT
MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY**

NEWS FROM THE NORTH EAST CMA

HELP US FIND NEW NOXIOUS WEEDS

Do you know of a weed that poses a threat to Victoria's North East?

The North East CMA is taking part in the first significant Statewide review of a noxious weeds list since 1994 and needs help to complete the task.

Residents have until 19 May to nominate weeds for inclusion on the updated noxious weeds hit-list.

"Unfortunately, there's no award for nominations to this list – just the prospect of control and eradication,"

said CMA Chief Executive, Mr John Riddiford.



The review of the noxious weed list involves a three-step process. In the first two phases, the CMA focussed on weed species that were already declared or identified as priorities in Regional Weed Action Plans.

Phase 3 of the review covers the need to proclaim additional species that pose significant economic, environmental or social risks to the Catchment and warrant declaration as noxious weeds. This includes a number of species currently in trade that are seen to pose an unacceptable risk.

The statewide Noxious Weed Review involves staff from the Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs), the Department of Primary Industries (DPI), and Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE).

Under the Catchment and Land Protection Act, CMA's have the responsibility to recommend plant species for declaration as noxious weeds.

Nomination forms are available from the North East CMA at Wodonga. Telephone: (02) 6043 7600

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

A recent report from the CSIRO and Allen Consulting Group highlighted that Australia's two biggest export earners - agriculture and tourism - will be most affected by climate change.

Since our community inspired climate change forum in November 2005, the North East CMA has developed a project with the Department of Primary Industries to investigate climate changes at a regional scale.

Primary producers need to consider how climate change will shape their business, without delay. With forethought and planning, opportunities presented by climate change could be harnessed. The DPI project will help to identify adaptations to maintain primary production and ecological communities into the future.

Victoria is likely to receive less, more variable rainfall and increased temperatures and, in the North East, we expect fewer frosts. What new, alternative agricultural enterprises are best suited to these conditions? What complementary actions can we take now to build resilience in ecosystems?

The North East CMA is approaching climate change proactively. Community Advisory Committees are involved in discussions and a community based future-thinking exercise is being designed. We recently joined the North East Greenhouse Alliance - a proactive group committed to finding practical ways to reduce greenhouse emissions and attracting new enterprises suited to a changing climate.

Sarah Nicholas,
Chairperson



Left: English broom, Upper Mitta River - this weed has taken over 200,000 hectares of Australia from NSW to WA and is still spreading. It threatens the survival of rare native orchids, the Bathurst copper butterfly and other woodland species.



Diverse, Healthy Landscapes, Vibrant Communities

OUR CATCHMENT ASSETS

INTRODUCING OUR ADVISORY COMMITTEES

The North East CMA has two asset based Advisory Committees. In early 2005 the Land and Water Advisory Committees replaced the geographic based Implementation Committees of Upper Murray Mitta, Ovens King Blackdog, and Wodonga Kiewa Indigo.

The Advisory Committees are strategic in nature. They provide advice to the Board on investment planning as well as Regional Catchment Strategy development, implementation and evaluation.

The Advisory Committees also act as a communication link with the community and relevant stakeholders. They provide advice to the Board on community engagement and assist the North East CMA to communicate with and access people in the community regarding resource management issues.

The membership and method of operation of the Advisory Committees are designed to facilitate these outcomes.

Membership of both advisory committees is spread across the catchment. There are 11 community representatives on each committee, up to 5 agency/stakeholder representatives and one CMA Board representative.

Land Advisory Committee

Membership; Roy Baird, Thomas Moritz, Peter Curtis, Rhonda Serpell, Anthony Jarvis, Melinda Short, Karen Jones, Vacancy, Ian Lobban, Wayne Donehue (Chair), Neville Wright, Anthony Griffiths (Board Rep), Sue Berwick (DSE), Tim Clune (DPI), Jim Blackney (Trust for Nature), Rick Felton (DPI), Charlie Pascoe (Parks Victoria).

Water Advisory Committee

Representatives; Donald Chambers, Pamela McKimmie, Deborah Gadd, Alison Mitchell, Frank Griffiths, Gordon Nicholas, Ray Henderson, Robyn Scales, Rick Malaschenko, Peter Serpell (Chair), Paul McGowan, Lindsay Jarvis (Board Rep), Neville Fowler (DPI), Don Jackson (NEW), Anne Graesser (GWM), Tony Long (DSE).

For more information contact Cathy Kelly (Executive Officer Advisory Committees)
Ph 02 6024 9104.
cathy.kelly@necma.vic.gov.au

Jessica Aiken and Carolyn Humby from the Waterwatch program joined the 2006 Enchanted River Festival celebrations along the Murray River at Albury Wodonga

FROM THE TEAMS

Corporate Services

Health & Safety – members of OH&S Committee have started monthly "safety walks and reviews" at all CMA work sites. **Human Resources** – staff attended a training course covering discrimination, harassment and bullying to ensure that the CMA has sufficiently skilled staff members to carry out these important roles. **Information Technology** – the major upgrade of the IT systems is complete, including implementation of a new web-based Help Desk program that allows staff anywhere in the Catchment to log their IT issues.

Water Program

Emerging issue – Willow Sawfly is attacking Crack Willows along the Kiewa River. It is estimated that Sawfly has the potential to spread up to 300kms per year. The CMA and DPI are jointly assessing the possible impacts of this insect. **River Tender** – seventy expressions of interests were lodged for Round 2. This excellent response rate represents a large change in awareness about the objectives of River Tender. 92% of the EOI's for Round 2 were eligible compared with only 60% in Round one.

Strategy and Partnerships

Our **Landcare Coordinators** are working with Landcare groups to identify new projects for upcoming Envirofund and other grants programs. The Ovens Soil Health Forum in early March was a great success with around 160 landholders from across the North East, Goulburn Broken and Murray (NSW) regions attending the day.

KEY DATES

19 MAY Closing date for nominations to Victorian Noxious Weed Review. Forms available from the North East CMA. Tel: (02) 6043 7600 or visit www.necma.vic.gov.au

30 JUNE Nominations close for North East Landcare Awards. Landcare groups, community groups and individuals can nominate in a range of categories. For details, contact Tom Croft on (02) 6043 7600 or tom.croft@necma.vic.gov.au



Did you know ?
More than 55% of the North East CMA region is public land.