

CATCH UP



**NORTH EAST
CATCHMENT
MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY**

NEWS FROM THE NORTH EAST CMA

Asset protection and sustainable catchments top priorities from July

The North East CMA will focus on two major natural resource management programs from July 2008.

Chief Executive, Mr. John Riddiford, said "Sustainable catchments" and "protecting strategic assets" complement a new national direction in natural resource management.

The Australian Government recently announced the \$2.25 billion "Caring for our Country" initiative. It has six national priorities:

- National reserve system
- Biodiversity and natural icons – including weed and feral animal control, threatened species
- Coastal environments and critical aquatic habitats
- Sustainable farm practices, including Landcare
- Natural resource management in remote and northern Australia
- Community skills, knowledge and engagement

While 55% of the North East is public land, many key natural resource assets are under the management of individuals.

"The day to day decisions and practices of these asset managers will have the greatest impact on the sustainability of our catchments," Mr. Riddiford explained.

"Sustainable catchments" will seek to strengthen and build the capacity of social networks involved in natural resource management, particularly the Landcare movement.

Through its "protecting strategic assets" program, the North East CMA will target investment and natural resource asset protection in six priority landscapes; the Lower Ovens, Lower Kiewa, Upper King, Victorian Alps, Warby Ranges/Killawarra/Greta, Upper Mitta and Koetong Creek.

For more information about "Caring for our Country" see FAQ section.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Staying focussed in a time of change

Effective management of this region's natural resources calls for genuine and ongoing interaction with our community, good science, a long-term commitment to making a difference and attention to priority environmental issues.

Sometimes seasonal events like fire and flood can distract us from the main game. So too can significant changes to funding!

The Australian Government's "Caring for our country" program will commence in July 2008. This new national package presents both challenges and opportunities for the North East CMA.

In summary, the CMA will receive 60% base funding of \$1.7 million in 2008/2009 and a transitional grant of \$910,00, almost a 15% reduction in Federal funding. The CMA has had to redesign its business structure to meet national priorities.

However, we are in a strong position to gain additional funding through competitive grants to deliver on the six national "Caring for our country" priorities.

We have used the priorities identified in this strategy to develop two new flagship programs which will allow us to extend work undertaken over the last decade.



John Riddiford,
CEO



Left: Lower Ovens - part of the CMA's new "protecting strategic assets" program.

Diverse, Healthy Landscapes Vibrant Communities

