

## Whole of Catchment Works

**Assistance Requests - Landholder Partnership** An assistance request is where a landholder registers a waterway issue with the North East CMA. The request is logged at the North East CMA Wodonga Office. The site is then inspected by a Waterways Project Officer who determines whether the site requires works, and assesses the severity and priority of the issue. If the site requires attention it can be classed as either emergency, maintenance or a landholder partnership, subject to catchment priorities and funding. The North East CMA usually undertakes works in conjunction with thirty landholders per annum. In 2006/07 the CMA responded to 159 requests for assistance

**Maintenance Works** - Maintenance works are targeted at maintaining existing North East CMA works and structures. Such works may include control of willow re-growth, maintenance of existing rock chutes. These targeted works will be continued on numerous sites throughout the 2007/08 period. In 2006/07 the CMA undertook maintenance activities on 24 sites

**Riparian Improvement Program (Emergency Works)** - Emergency works are actions undertaken to mitigate the effect of threatening processes on public assets. Management of emergencies will continue throughout the 2007/08 period. In 2006/07 the CMA undertook emergency activities on 10 sites

**Fire Recovery** - In 2006/07 bushfires in the region burnt large parts of the catchment. The aim of this project was to assist catchment recovery in the areas that were impacted. A number of activities are being undertaken by working with landholders along waterways including:

- Fencing and revegetation.
- Waterway environmental and structural asset protection and re-instatement (bed and bank instability, sediment control measures and debris management, increased water quality monitoring, weed management and other related activities).

The main focus of the project will be on the following streams: Upper Ovens River, Buffalo River, Rose River, King river, East and West Branch of the Kiewa River and Fifteen Mile Creek. It is anticipated that this project will be completed in 2009. In 2006/07 the CMA undertook fire recovery activities for 25 landholders

**Develop a Technique to Determine the Short and Long-term Impacts of Removing Willows on River Health** - The purpose of monitoring is to provide indicative information to track and review the performance of the management plans and activities. Monitoring implementation of the strategy and improvements in river health means that quality data and information requires regular collection. Currently the Murray Darling Freshwater Research Centre (MDFRC) is working with the North East

CMA to develop a generic pre and post works monitoring program. One site was monitored as part of this study (in 2005) and another site at Little Snowy Creek (in 2006). The intention of this project is to broaden the scope, with a particular emphasis on sites with willow removal.

**Landholder Partnership Incentive Scheme (LPIS)** – This is a program that provides financial assistance for the fencing and revegetation of waterways. The North East CMA undertakes stabilisation and revegetation works along priority rivers streams throughout the region.

Assistance is available to individual landholders for waterway fencing, willow control, revegetation and for the provision of off stream watering points. Funding levels are calculated from the catchment and community benefit of the proposed works and typically range from \$200 to \$3,000 per project.

**Crown Frontage Assessment in the Ovens Basin** - This project commenced in 2004. The Crown Frontage Assessment of the Ovens Basin Project was initiated in association with Crown Land Management – Department of Sustainability and Environment. The project aims to identify high quality indigenous remnant vegetation on Crown Frontages within the Ovens Basin. By identifying high quality vegetation, the North East CMA can target these areas for future works programs. The vegetation information will also be used to assist in the expansion and development of other projects in the North East such as River Tender. This information will also be used to validate and populate the RIVERS Database.

**River Tender** - River Tender is an auction-style incentive program, which pays landholders and Crown land leaseholders to look after their river frontage for the benefit of the river. Eligible landholders and leaseholders have the opportunity to bid for the funds they require to undertake agreed works which affect river health, such as weed control, stock management and fencing, erosion control and native vegetation restoration. The North East CMA has undertaken three rounds of River Tender with funding from the Victorian Water Trust. To date 1,324 hectares of riverside property and 141 kilometres of river frontage is being managed under Agreements to improve the health of the river. Whilst no new rounds will be offered, works will be continuing at River Tender sites throughout 2007/08 which will cover the main stem of the Ovens River as well as Reedy Creek and the Buckland River, Devils Creek and Morses Creek in the upper Ovens area.