



NORTH EAST  
CATCHMENT  
MANAGEMENT  
AUTHORITY

# ANNUAL REPORT 2002 / 2003

1990



1997



2003



Diverse, healthy landscapes; vibrant communities

## VISION

“Diverse, healthy landscapes; vibrant communities.”

## MISSION

“Our mission is to work in partnership with the community and government agencies to maintain and enhance diverse, healthy landscapes and thus to support vibrant communities in North East Victoria.”

### We will achieve this by:

Demonstrating leadership in providing a strategic overview of the environmental resources and needs of the region, and in attracting and directing resources that will help generate the knowledge and actions needed to progress towards the vision.

### We operate by:

Engaging the community and working in partnerships to initiate, coordinate and integrate catchment management programs whilst representing the interests of the region’s natural resources locally, statewide and nationally.

### We work on behalf of.

The current and future generations of our region, as well as the downstream communities reliant on our resources.

### Our ultimate purpose is:

To assist the North East Catchment community protect and enhance the unique biodiversity of our region and achieve balanced use of the natural resources, consequently protecting the most valuable water resource in the Murray Darling Basin for the current and future generations.

## OBJECTIVES

There are 5 strategic objectives:

- Help achieve the understanding needed for effective natural resource management;
- Prepare plans for conservation, enhancement and balanced use of natural resources;
- Build the means and capacity to implement plans;
- Facilitate necessary changes in practices and management;
- Evaluate progress and learn from results.

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# HIGHLIGHTS

- Strategic Development of the Regional Catchment Strategy on target

## WATER

- NECMA, together with the Rural City of Wangaratta and Alpine Shire, awarded the pre-disaster category for Excellence in Emergency Management, for the development of the Ovens and King Flood Warning System
- NECMA hosted the Australian launch of the Draft Australian Runoff Quality Guidelines for best practice in the treatment of stormwater
- NECMA responded with emergency works on the Mitta River to address erosion resulting from consistent high irrigation flow releases



*Ovens River, Tarrawingee.*

- 60 km of gully stabilisation works completed
- Stormwater management plans developed for local government areas
- 25 landholder grants allocated for fencing and revegetation activities
- Successful community education programs focussing on wetlands and urban water quality
- Water for Growth workshops generated more than \$2M of investment for water use efficiency
- 11 Waterway Action Plans implemented, with 32 landholders participating
- Ongoing involvement of 70 schools in water quality data collection
- Development of a Water Resources Policy

## PEOPLE

- North East CMA staff worked with DSE in fire containment activities and rehabilitation of crossings of waterways
- Members of the community recognised at the presentation of Salinity Community Awards
- Participation in the inaugural North East Regional Landcare Awards, presented by Governor John Landy. Over 500 years of combined service to Landcare recognised
- Enterprise Agreement 2003 certified by the Australian Industrial Relations Commission
- Risk Management Strategy developed

## LAND

- Over 50 landholders involved with whole farm business plans
- An estimated 16,000 ha identified for high value agricultural land as a result of Land Resources Assessment program
- Report on surface water salinity monitoring for the Ovens Catchments 2001 published. The program continuously monitors salinity and flow on four major streams
- Work begun to produce a practical decision support kit for land managers to improve awareness and knowledge of soil health issues and natural resource management options

## BIODIVERSITY

- Establishment of the North East Community Seedbank
- A joint public land manager's focus group formed to oversee changes to the Good Neighbour Program



*Bushfire Regrowth. Photo courtesy: Ian Bishop.*

## DEMOGRAPHICS

The North East Region of Victoria is an area rich in natural assets from snow-topped mountains to river valleys and open plains. The region covers approximately 1.9 million hectares of North East Victoria, including three major catchments: Upper Murray, Kiewa and the Ovens. The North East is bounded by the Murray River in the north, the Victorian Alps in the south, the NSW border in the east and by the Warby Ranges in the west. It includes the municipalities of Wodonga, Indigo, Wangaratta, Alpine, Towong and parts of Moira and East Gippsland.

The North East region is a place of marked contrasts: tumbling waterfalls, quiet streams, deep rocky gorges, snow-capped mountains and placid valleys. The region's history is strongly linked to the search for gold - wide tree-lined streets and solid, dignified buildings.

Indicative of the region's wealth, is the estimated \$3.24 billion it contributes to the State and national economic wealth per year. Industries include agriculture (dairy, beef, lamb, wool, cropping and horticulture), forest industries and value-added processing industries in the regional cities of Wangaratta and Wodonga.

More than 55 per cent of the North East consists of public land encompassing over 200 reserves including National Parks, Wilderness Parks and Historic Reserves. Such parks and reserves are vital for regional biodiversity, offering varying measures of protection to indigenous flora and fauna and important ecosystems.

Natural assets of the region are a major drawcard attracting visitors to the region's 'playgrounds' throughout the year. From the top of Mt. Bogong to the valleys below, the region is popular with bushwalkers due to the spectacular views, great camping areas, and proximity of towns. The region is also home to the principal skifields in Victoria - Falls Creek, Mount Hotham and Mount Buffalo.

The North East region plays a vital role in providing water resources for South Eastern Australia. Despite the region's size (only 2 per cent of the geographic area of the Murray Darling Basin), the three primary river basins- the Ovens,

Kiewa and Upper Murray-contribute 38 per cent of the total water to the Murray Darling Basin system (DWR 1989).

Despite efforts and successes to date, the condition of many of the North East's natural assets continues to decline.

Implementation of the Regional Catchment Strategy is the key vehicle in arresting the decline of our natural resource base.

## CMA BUSINESS:

The Authority has two types of business:

### 1. Direct:

- Waterway management
- Floodplain management
- Water quality management

### 2. Co-ordination:

Implementation of the Regional Catchment Strategy through the North East CMA's partnership with Department of Sustainability and Environment and Department of Primary Industries and the broader community.

The business function of the North East CMA is conducted across a wide area, managing both natural and developed areas, and providing services for the benefit of both internal customers within the region and external customers downstream.



*View of Buffalo Valley from Mt Buffalo Lookout.  
Photo courtesy: Carmelo Notrianni.*

# CORPORATE DIRECTORY

## PRINCIPAL OFFICE

1B Footmark Court  
Wodonga VIC 3690

Telephone: (02) 6043 7600  
Facsimile: (02) 6043 7601  
Email: [necma@necma.vic.gov.au](mailto:necma@necma.vic.gov.au)  
Website: [www.necma.vic.gov.au](http://www.necma.vic.gov.au)

## OTHER OFFICES

Victorian Business Centre  
36 Ford Street  
Wangaratta VIC 3677

Telephone: (03) 5721 8672  
Facsimile: (03) 5721 7527

## DEPOTS

Everton: 25 Wards Lane, Everton  
Kiewa: 37 Kiewa East Road, Kiewa  
Moyhu: 4 Boggy Creek Road, Moyhu

## AUDITORS

Auditor General - Victoria

Agents:  
Haines Norton Chartered Accountants  
8/607 Bourke Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000

Internal Auditors:  
KPMG  
491 Smollett Street  
Albury NSW 2640

## INSURERS

Victorian Managed Insurance Agency  
551 Lonsdale Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000

Jardine Lloyd Thompson  
468 St Kilda Road  
Melbourne VIC 3004

## BANKERS

National Australia Bank  
High Street  
Wodonga VIC 3690

## WATERWAY MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Earth Tech  
68 Ovens Street  
Wangaratta VIC 3677

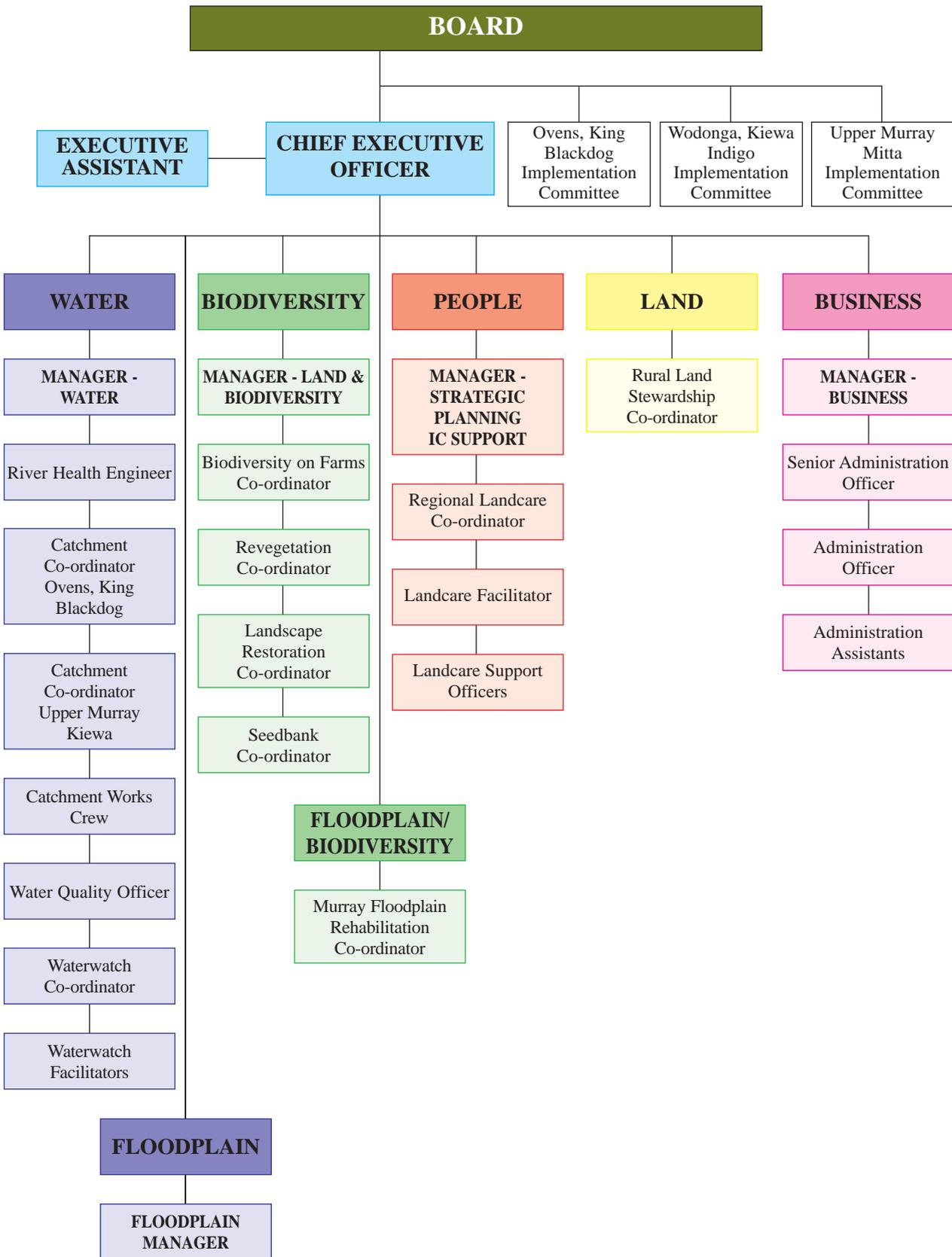
## FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

KPMG  
491 Smollett Street  
Albury NSW 2640

## LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES

Harris Leiberman Boyd  
Thomas Mitchell Drive  
Wodonga VIC 3690

# ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Phew, what a year! The natural environment seemed to go from crisis to crisis with a serious drought shaping up in country that “always stays green” just before furious bush fires broke out, the most intense for over 70 years.

Congratulations and thanks to board members and staff for their terrific efforts and also to the Implementation Committee members, DPI and DSE staff, local governments and the wider community for partnership, support and contributions over a difficult year.

The Catchment Management Authority strengthened Government drought support programs, as the drought intensified over the summer months and as its effects continue. The Authority also contributed to fire suppression and recovery operations. A watching brief will be maintained over the next few years to ensure recovery from both drought and fire is as expedient and complete as possible.

Despite the natural phenomena, advances towards improved natural resource management were made across the region. The focus on the power of natural events possibly increased the urgency of debate on issues such as water reform and management of public land.

Of prime importance has been the continued development and ultimate accreditation of the Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS). Integral to the RCS has been effective and genuine community consultation and attracting and engaging all regional partners. Weeds remain of paramount importance.

The CMA board developed aspirational targets for the strategy this year. The targets have a focus on communities being change ready and the ability of people to make informed decisions. To achieve this, continued exploration of options is required, working with on-ground knowledge as well as with scientific enquiry, followed by effective communication of results - all part of the RCS.

The CMA hosted a water forum, inviting regional partners to discuss the issues surrounding consumptive and environmental use of water.

Another forum was held to introduce the environmental flows ‘Living Murray’ program. The environmental flows debate is important to the North East and future discussions and decisions will be monitored with interest.

A land resource assessment project was completed for the North East region which will enable improved decision making based on the capability of the land to support agriculture without excessive risk of on-site and off-site land and water degradation.

The Ovens River was identified in the Victorian River Health Strategy because of the almost natural flows along its length which complement a degree of intactness over the entire system. The contribution of the Ovens to the Murray River system is unquantified but is significant for ecological processes. The Minister requested the CMA to prepare a special plan for the Ovens.

Efforts made by key regional individuals towards combating salinity were recognised by the salinity community awards at the Bendigo Salinity Summit.

Landcare Groups and members were also recognised for more than 500 years of combined service to Landcare. The NE Regional Landcare Awards were formally presented by John Landy, AC, MBE, Governor of Victoria.

Increased protection of areas of Box-Ironbark ecosystems led to the development of co-operative agreements to enhance environmental values along the Black Dog Creek and to funding the investigation of short and long term firewood needs.

Welcome to the renewed Board, and I look forward to the year ahead.



**SARAH NICHOLAS**

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The region was subjected to a year of extreme conditions, through the ongoing drought and extensive bushfires.

706,000 ha or 35% of the region was burnt by bushfire. The CMA provided support to the firefighting effort by sponsoring volunteer firefighters (employed by the CMA), providing specialist operators and providing office support at the Beechworth Incident Control Centre. I thank those staff who contributed significant time and effort.



*"Firestorm" January 2003, Buffalo Plateau.  
Photo courtesy: Johannes Smit.*

The drought and fires had a significant impact on the CMA's works program, slowing the uptake of revegetation programs as well as a redirection of funding to provide for emergency relief in the Bushfire Recovery Program and provision of stock containment grants for affected farmers.

The drought also had other impacts, in particular sustained flows in the Mitta below Dartmouth Dam for irrigation release. The CMA responded to specific consequent river erosion situations (supported by the Murray Darling Basin Commission) and has initiated a significant investigation into the impact of sustained flow.

The move to the new Wodonga Office has brought a consolidation of program leaders, business support and field operations to the one location. This has resulted in greater synergies and harmony in program delivery.

Partnerships were a key theme during the year. Key linkages with the Department of

Sustainability (DSE), Department of Primary Industries, water authorities, local government, Trust For Nature, Greening Australia and Landcare brought a better integration of programs and natural resource management outcomes. One partnership with the Rural City of Wangaratta, Alpine Shire, DSE and the Bureau of Meteorology developed the Flood Response Guidelines for the Ovens and King Rivers. This project received the State Award for the pre-disaster category, part of the Australian Safer Communities Awards.

Other highlights included solid progress of the Regional Floodplain Management Strategy with the completion of a number of flood studies, hosting the launch of the Australian Runoff Quality Guidelines and the development of a continuous improvement system designated at improving the occupational health and safety, environmental and quality standards of our Works crews.

The commitment of the staff, together with a renewed Regional Catchment Strategy, will bring even greater rewards in catchment management for the ensuing year.

**JOHN RIDDIFORD**

## MANAGEMENT AND STRUCTURE

### BOARD

The CMA was controlled by an eleven member Board of Management. The Board includes a cross section of representatives from the community, stakeholders and government.

**Mr Anthony Griffiths**  
Primary Producer



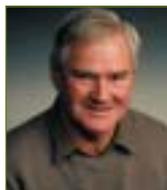
**Ms Sarah Nicholas (Chair)**  
Land Management Consultant



**Dr Terry Hillman**  
Research Freshwater Ecology



**Mr Mac Paton**  
Primary Producer



**Mr Lindsay Jarvis OAM**  
Primary Producer; Deputy Chair,  
Murray Goulburn Dairy  
Co-operative



**Ms Carolyn Cameron**  
Department of Primary Industries  
Representative



**Ms Christine Prendergast**  
Tourism and Local Government



**Ms Lyn Coulston**  
Nursery Operations;  
Mayor Towong Shire



**Mr Kevin Ritchie**  
Department of Sustainability  
and Environment Representative



**Ms Sarah Crooke**  
Primary Producer;  
Deputy Chair,  
Goulburn Murray Water;  
Director, Dairy Australia



**Ms Noelene Wallace**  
Primary Producer



## SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

**John Riddiford -  
Chief Executive Officer**



Sets the executive direction of the Authority, ensuring the effective implementation of North East CMA strategic, operational and financial functions and maintaining effective external and internal relationships.

**Veronica Lanigan -  
Manager Water Programs**



Manages the waterway, water quality and water resource functions of the Authority.

**Jeff Taylor -  
Manager Strategic Planning and  
Implementation Committee Support**



Manages the strategic planning and development functions of the Authority and provides executive support for the Implementation Committees.

**Geoff Robinson -  
Manager Land and Vegetation  
Programs**



Responsible for overseeing and facilitating the implementation of a strategic, integrated approach to the sustainable management of native vegetation and land programs.

**Graeme Taylor - Manager Business**



Manages the accounting, payroll, human resources and business functions of the Authority.

## STAFF

**Bayley, Luke** - Biodiversity On Farms Officer  
**Birrell, Bruce** - Waterwatch Facilitator  
**Bradbury, Mellissa** - Administration Officer  
**Broughton, Michael** - Catchment Program Employee  
**Croft, Tom** - Regional Landcare Co-ordinator  
**Diano, Julie** - Senior Administration Officer  
**Ferguson, Leigh** - Catchment Program Employee  
**Finster, Jessica** - Administration Assistant  
**Guinane, Sean** - Catchment Program Co-ordinator  
**Horsfield, Janice** - Waterwatch Facilitator  
**McCallum, Glen** - Catchment Program Employee  
**McCormack, Terry** - Catchment Program Co-ordinator  
**McKernan, Geoff** - Landcare Facilitator  
**Martin, Natalie** - River Health Engineer  
**Mongan, Emma** - Water Quality Officer  
**Mulcahy, Steve** - Catchment Program Employee  
**Pasquali, Susan** - Administration Assistant  
**Petz, Robyn** - Administration Officer (Temporary)  
**Reid, Chris** - Rural Land Stewardship Co-ordinator  
**Robinson, Tracey** - Waterwatch Facilitator  
**Scanlon, Kylie** - Landcare Support Officer  
**Schultz, Ken** - Catchment Program Employee  
**Shanks-Colla, Fiona** - Executive Assistant  
**Shields, Martin** - Catchment Program Employee  
**Sorensen, Fran** - Waterwatch Co-ordinator  
**Stelling, Fleur** - Seed Bank Co-ordinator  
**von't Steen, Roel** - Floodplain Manager  
**Wainwright, Georgina** - Revegetation Co-ordinator  
**Ward, Keith** - Murray Floodplain Rehabilitation  
 Co-ordinator  
**Williamson, John** - Catchment Program Employee  
**Woods, Kelvin** - Catchment Program Employee

## IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEES

Membership of the Implementation Committees as at 30th June 2003 was:

### Ovens King Black Dog Implementation Committee

**Dinning, Cr Geoff** - (Rural City of Wangaratta to March 2003)  
**Donehue, Wayne**

**Fowler, Neville** (DPI)  
**Griffiths, Frank**  
**Griffiths, Judy** - Chairperson  
**Hotson, Bill**  
**Kunze, Eberhard**  
**Leschen, Cr Zuvele** (Alpine Shire to March 2003)  
**Moritz, Thomas**  
**Neary, James**  
**Noble, Phillipa**  
**Randell, Cr. Andrew** (Alpine Shire from March 2003)  
**Williamson, Geoffrey**

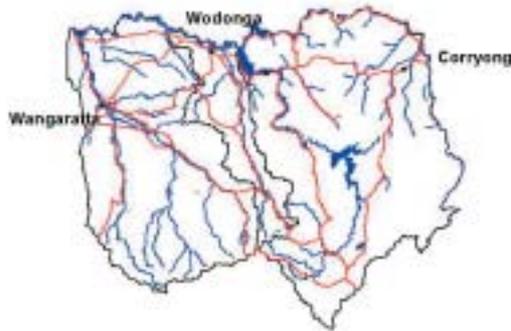
### Upper Murray Mitta Implementation Committee

**Baird, Roy**  
**Flannagan, Bill**  
**Felton, Rick** (DPI)  
**Harris, Leanne**  
**Houston, Hillis**  
**Jarvis, Tony**  
**Martin, Bob** - Chairperson  
**Mouat, Miranda**  
**Nicholas, Gordon**  
**Perry, Edwin**  
**Scales, Cr. Robyn** (Towong Shire from March 2003)

### Wodonga Kiewa Indigo Implementation Committee

**Baynes, Ed** - Chairperson  
**Bailey, Cr. Graeme** (Indigo Shire from March 2003)  
**Boyes, Les**  
**Connors, Doug**  
**Crosthwaite, Don**  
**Dobson, Alan** (DPI)  
**Murtagh, Betty**  
**McIntosh, Cr. Nelson** (Indigo Shire to March 2003)  
**McGowan, Paul**  
**Matthews, Don**  
**Watson, Cr John** (Wodonga Council)

# WATER PROGRAMS



Map of NECMA showing major rivers and roads.

## RIVER HEALTH AND WATER QUALITY

The North East CMA is responsible for waterway management and water quality programs in accordance with the Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS). A review of the RCS commenced in 2002/03.

### Strategy / Action Plans

The RCS will provide an overarching document to guide catchment management into the future. Implementation of the Upper North East Water Quality Strategy and Ovens Basin Water Quality Strategy has continued in the past year.

Joint programs were undertaken with North East Region Water Authority.

### Works

**Farm Nutrient Management:** 25 grants were allocated to landholders for fencing and revegetation activities. This involved 14 km of fencing along waterways (total area of 20 ha) and the planting of 32,300 trees and shrubs within fenced riparian zones.

**Gully Management:** Works associated with the Ovens, Kiewa and North East Erosion Action Plans have been gradually implemented, albeit slowly given the combined impact of drought and bushfires.

**Stormwater Management Plans:** Towong Shire, City of Wodonga, Rural City of Wangaratta, Indigo Shire, and the Falls Creek and Mt Hotham Resort Management Boards have developed stormwater management plans.

**Community Education:** Activities included a bus tour to look at water sensitive urban design as part of major housing developments. A “wetlands walkabout” was held for participants to see urban and natural wetlands.

## WATERWAYS

The North East CMA has undertaken significant works in partnership with local communities to improve river health. A major focus has been to negotiate landholder partnership agreements before commencement of works.

### Current Situation

The impact of bushfires in January and February 2003 is under continuous monitoring. Monitoring shows a noticeable impact on water quality from early rainfall events. Erosion problems have also been observed.

### Strategy / Action Plans

The Willows Policy and Waterways Action Plan are under development and review. Future works will be planned in accordance with the revised Regional Catchment Strategy.

### Works

Ongoing works are summarised as follows:

#### Ovens King Blackdog

**Ovens Willow Management Plan:** The objective is to eradicate black willow from the middle section of the Ovens River. Three landholders participated and most works occurred on Crown Land.

**Boggy Creek:** The objective is to link remnant stands of riparian vegetation, re-establish native understorey, prevent the spread of pussy willow and reduce bank erosion. Two landholders participated.

**Morses Creek:** Works included bank stabilisation, fencing and revegetation.

**Upper Fifteen Mile Creek:** The objective was to develop and implement a comprehensive stream alignment and sediment control program. Two landholders participated.

## Wodonga Kiewa Indigo

**Yackandandah and Kinchington Creek:** The focus was to manage sediment transport and willow growth, and replant riparian corridors with native species. Seven landholders assisted with works.

**Bight Creek:** Major structural works have been completed. Three landholders assisted with willow management, fencing and revegetation.

**Wodonga waterways:** Urban areas of Wodonga were revegetated in a joint project between the CMA and Wodonga Council.

**Kiewa River:** Revegetation of sites was undertaken. Those that were drought affected will be revegetated next financial year.

## Upper Murray Mitta

**Omeo District Waterways:** Drought, fires and flash flooding hindered works and the availability of resources, however extensive willow poisoning was undertaken and some rock stabilisation. Five landholders were involved.

**Mitta Mitta River:** Eight landholders participated in willow management, bank stabilisation, fencing and revegetation activities.

**Corryong Creek:** Three landholders participated in willow management, bank stabilisation, fencing and revegetation activities.

**Cudgewa Creek:** The objective was to protect reaches with good riparian vegetation, reduce the dominance of willows in the riparian zone and control erosion. Two landholders participated.

## Whole of Catchment

**Landholder Partnership Program:** Requests for assistance were prioritised and landholders in high priority areas became partners in the works program. Works including willow management, fencing, bank stabilisation and revegetation were undertaken at 39 properties.

**Maintenance and Emergency Works:** Maintenance of CMA assets was carried out. Emergency funds were used to protect public assets under threat and in other emergencies, such as storm damage around Myrtleford in October 2002.

**Works on Waterways Applications:** The CMA processed 44 applications.

**Special Projects:** The CMA worked with DSE.

## WATER FOR GROWTH

The Water for Growth Initiative supported the development of an on-farm water use efficiency program for the North East catchment that commenced in April 2001.

### Current Situation

The program was available until June 30, 2003. All funds have been committed and farmers have either completed the works and been reimbursed, or are in the process of completing the works to meet eligibility criteria. The program is being replaced with an adjusted version during 2003/04 that reflects expenditure available for the new season.

### Strategy / Action Plans

The program has delivered significant improvements in production, quality and water savings for farmers, in particular those who have opted for the change in systems, ie conversion from flood irrigation. There has also been strong support for the content of the irrigation management courses and the use of soil moisture monitoring equipment that will provide longterm benefits to users.

### Works

Irrigation, drainage and environmental (farm) plans have been completed for 50 farms to assist in improved management practices. Twenty-nine landholders purchased soil moisture monitoring equipment at a total cost of \$79,641 (average \$2746) and the rebate is calculated at 50%.

Thirty-nine landholders were recipients of systems change grants, total of \$484,365 (average \$12,419) and farmers spent \$2,046,332 (average \$52,470).



*Irrigation Field Day*

## WATERWATCH

The Waterwatch program is now into its seventh year of providing water quality data collection and education in 70 schools. A regional program in stormwater education continues to raise community awareness of the impact of street litter on stream water quality in urban areas.



*Students involved in waterwatch activities*

### Current Situation

Waterwatch is seeking the assistance of Landcare group members and urban residents to volunteer for training to monitor rural and urban sites.

### Strategy / Action Plans

Waterwatch will continue to explore opportunities to involve the community in water quality monitoring activities.



*Students monitoring water quality on the Ovens River at Whorouly*

## MURRAY CORRIDOR FLOODPLAIN REHABILITATION PROJECT

Funded by the Victorian Rural Water Reform Program, the project is implementing improved water management works and strategies between Hume Weir and Tocumwal. The objective is to impart a more natural flow regime.

### Current Situation

An extensive on-ground works program began between Yarrawonga and Tocumwal following consultation with agencies in Victoria and NSW. Works were primarily focused on modifying wetland “commence to flow” thresholds.



*Babblers*

### Strategy / Action Plans

Data and knowledge generated by this project has contributed directly to two relevant scientific regional evaluation groups for the Living Murray initiative. Direct involvement with similar programs for the three downstream CMAs has been given via steering committees and project co-ordination, generating the first activities from the new Murray River Action Plan.

### Works

Earthworks have been completed to modify the commence-to-flow thresholds of 11 wetlands at seven sites between Yarrawonga and Tocumwal. Appropriate rehabilitation and revegetation works have occurred at all sites.

## FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

### Strategy / Action Plans

As part of implementation of the Regional Floodplain Management Strategy, the following program outcomes have been achieved.

### Local Flood Studies and Floodplain Management Plans

#### Wangaratta Flood Mitigation Scheme

The Rural City of Wangaratta is responsible for the implementation of the Scheme. So far the inlet of the One Mile Creek diversion channel has been lowered and flood protection works for several outlying properties have been constructed.

#### Myrtleford Floodplain Management Study

The Minister has appointed a Community Committee under the provisions of the Water Act. The Committee has made a recommendation for a Myrtleford Flood Protection Scheme, for which public comments are sought.

#### Harrietville Flood Mitigation Study and Ovens Rural Flood Study (Harrietville to Whorouly)

Studies of flooding in Harrietville township and the floodplains along the Ovens in Alpine Shire have been completed. Improved flood planning maps will be introduced in Council's Planning Scheme.

#### Ovens Rural Flood Study (Whorouly to Wangaratta)

This study and the development of a local floodplain management plan for this region has been completed and new flood planning maps have been introduced in the Rural City of Wangaratta's Planning Scheme.

#### King River Flood Study

This study and the development of a local floodplain management plan has now commenced and is expected to be completed within 6 months.

### Rainfall and Storages

Rainfall in mm	Corryong	Bright	Wodonga (Albury Airport)	Wangaratta Airport
Total 2002	594	730	348 (new low)	415
Average	778	1169	758	670
Lowest Year	344 (1967)	578 (1982)	475 (1988)	385 (1988)

A new 'low' rainfall record was set for the Wodonga region. In 2002 rainfall for most of the region was more than 35% below average.

Storages	Hume	Dartmouth
Full Storage	3,038,000 ML	3,906,400 ML
30 June 2002 (2001)	18% (41%)	84% (80%)
30 September 2002 (2001)	28% (66%)	71% (87%)
31 December 2002 (2001)	10% (67%)	50% (86%)
31 March 2003 (2001)	7% (13 %)	29 % (85%)
30 June 2003 (2001)	18% (18%)	30% (84 %)

Releases from Lake Hume are used for irrigation (and environmental) purposes while Lake Dartmouth is operated as a back up facility for the Murray system.

### Statutory Land Use Planning

The CMA has formally responded to the following statutory floodplain management referrals and enquiries from Councils. All replies were forwarded within the statutory 28 day period and replies were dealt with, on average, within 10 days. There was a small increase in permit applications and enquiries.

Council	2002/03	2001/02	2000/01	1999/00	1998/99
Wangaratta	57	64	41	53	42
Wodonga	16	17	19	21	17
Indigo	14	17	11	12	14
Towong	3	4	2	1	6
Alpine	45	30	23	34	22
Moir	4	3			
TOTAL	139	135	96	121	101

The Rural City of Wangaratta has introduced flood maps, produced as part of the Flood Data Transfer in its Planning Scheme.

# PEOPLE PROGRAMS



Map of NECMA showing Local Government Areas

## STRATEGIC PLANNING / IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEES

Effort over the past 12 months has concentrated on engaging the community in renewal of the North East Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS). Seven community reference groups were established to encourage input. Drought and bushfires created difficult circumstances for many community members and this had an impact on the authority's engagement processes.

### Current Situation

The current Implementation Committee term is entering its final year. The three ICs have contributed greatly in influencing the direction of natural resource management programs. The committees will have their structure reviewed in line with renewal of the RCS to ensure that they continue to deliver community engagement outcomes.

### Strategy / Action Plans

The first draft of the renewed RCS was submitted on time to the Accreditation Co-ordination Group in June 2003. It is anticipated that the RCS will achieve State and Commonwealth accreditation before the next investment planning cycle.

A new regional arrangement for State and Commonwealth funding has commenced for the 2003/04 financial year. A "Regional Catchment

Investment Plan" was submitted in April 2003. The plan identified a required investment of \$82.3 million over the next three years to achieve natural resource outcomes identified in the RCS.

## LANDCARE

Work began this year to implement the Victorian Action Plan for Second Generation Landcare – Healthy Landscapes, Sustainable Communities. This included funding for a dedicated regional Landcare co-ordinator to develop strategic Landcare support in the region.

### Current Situation

A range of support programs is being developed to assist Landcare groups and employees, including training programs, GIS and GPS systems. The development of Local Area Plans has been accelerated. A new whole farm planning program has begun, with more than 200 landholders involved.

### Strategy / Action Plans

The Landcare community has participated in the review of the Regional Catchment Strategy and this consultation will help develop a Regional Landcare Support Strategy and strategic Landcare investment plan.

Eleven Local Area Plans have been produced to draft or final stage and four others have commenced.

The first draft of an Indigenous Protocol between the North East CMA and Mungabareena Aboriginal Corporation has been developed.

### Works

Landcare works suffered from the combined impact of drought and bushfires. Some revegetation sites in the upper catchments were directly affected by damage to plants and fences. Landholder time availability was also significantly reduced. The fires have burned large areas of weeds and enabled access for opportunistic post-fire weed control.

# LAND PROGRAMS



*Satellite Map of NECMA.*

## RURAL LAND STEWARDSHIP

The Rural Land Stewardship Program has delivered subsidised whole farm business planning for landholders, with significant benefits for landholders and the environment. The concept of stewardship incentives is to pay landholders an annual fee to manage land removed from production.

### Current Situation

A conference on rural land stewardship will seek landholder input to determine the program's future direction. Funds have been obtained from the 2002/03 NHT to pay landholders for the provision of ecosystem services.

### Strategy / Action Plans

Environmental Management Systems (EMS) has been added as a new sub-program.

### Works

Various environmental works have commenced on properties following recommendations in completed whole farm plans.

## WHOLE FARM PLANNING

The North East Whole Farm Planning Program was developed from a Natural Heritage Trust grant, which started in March 2002. A target of 200 whole farm plans was set for the year 2002/03 and 188 were completed.

### Current Situation

Demand remains very strong. Funding cuts pose a challenge that is met, where practical, through co-ordinated activity with other programs such as Rural Land Stewardship and Water for Growth.

### Strategy / Action Plans

There is currently a focus on combining Landcare groups in the Upper Murray to support fire-affected landholders through the Bushfire Environmental Recovery Program.

### Works

Information from completed Whole Farm Plans is being entered onto the CAMS database to help plan and implement on-ground works across the catchment.



*Carboor.*

## SALINITY

The North East Salinity Strategy is being implemented using a targeted approach in priority areas. The emphasis this year was on working closely with other programs to maximise the use of limited resources and achieve multiple environmental benefits.

### Current Situation

The drought and bushfires slowed program delivery due to the allocation of salinity staff to other works and time restraints for landholders.

### Strategy / Action Plans

The North East Salinity Strategy was reviewed in 2001 and the second generation salinity management plan is being prepared.

### Works

Grants assisted the management of high recharge areas with 38ha of high density tree planting, 8ha of remnant protection, 45ha of farm forestry, 67ha of perennial pastures and 70ha of lucerne sowing.



*Implementation Committee members on field trip.*

Revegetation of 15ha of the Carlyle Water Reserve at Rutherglen was completed. A large number of Scouts planted the site as part of the Greenfleet contribution.

The groundwater pumping trial at Everton Upper in fractured bedrock was progressed. Some 20 megalitres have been extracted for use on perennial pastures.

## SOIL HEALTH

The North East Soil Health Action Plan aims to maintain long-term production and sustainability of land in the region while minimising the negative impact of poor soil management.

### Current Situation

Land managers are implementing many of the plan's recommendations within budget restraints. There is a strong emphasis on co-operation with other programs.

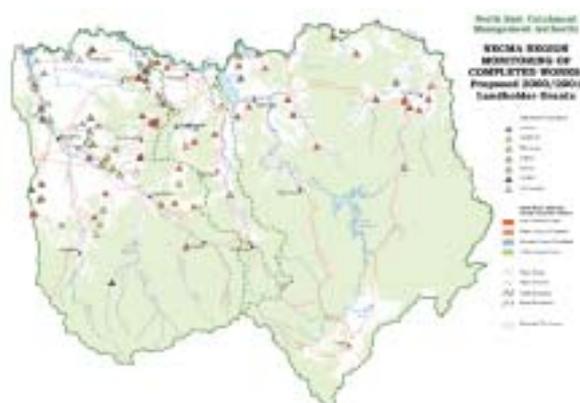
### Strategy / Action Plans

The North East Soil Health Action Plan was completed in 2001.



*Revegetation works.*

# BIODIVERSITY PROGRAMS



## VEGETATION AND BIODIVERSITY

Biodiversity outcomes have been achieved through an integrated strategic approach to habitat protection, enhancement and re-establishment, improved awareness and understanding supported by technical assistance and financial incentives for landholders.

### Current Situation

Significant effort has been put into co-ordinating the development of two investment proposals. An expected decrease in government investment, specifically in biodiversity programs, will have an impact on the ability to plan and implement on-ground works in 2003/04 and 2004/05.

### Strategy / Action Plans

Interim targets for biodiversity have been developed as part of the draft North East Regional

Catchment Strategy. The CMA Board has endorsed a revised version of the Regional Vegetation Plan after receiving guidelines from the State Government. Planning and coordination to identify landscape priorities and integration with the delivery of natural resource management programs has begun.

### Works

Refer to the summary table below

## FOREST MANAGEMENT

The most significant event in State Forest was the multiple lightning strikes on January 8, 2003, during a severe drought, with 84 fires starting in North East Victoria. All but nine fires were extinguished, but these eventually merged and burnt 1.1 million hectares in Victoria, (706,000 in the North East).

### Current Situation

Initial stabilisation of fire suppression lines on public land in the North East, and those constructed on freehold land by fire authorities, has been completed. Follow up will be needed to ensure that drainage is working efficiently and has not been breached by winter runoff or misuse of tracks by trail bikes and 4WD vehicles.

Output	Land Mgt (Units)	Landcare	Project Delivery Remnant Protection (grants)	Targeted	Total Revegetation
Remnant Protection (ha)	2	25.9	177.2	115	320
Remnant Enhanced (ha)	0	0	27.5	0	28
Wetland Protected or Enhanced (ha)	2	4.5	0	0	7
Revegetation (ha)	59.3	260.33	0	290	610
Gully Stabilised (km)	1	82.92	0	0	84
Stream Protected (km)	0	2.36	0	0	2
Erosion Stabilised (ha)	208.5	1.27	0	0	210
Salinity discharge control (ha)	10	0	0	0	10
Salinity recharge control (ha)	401.9	0	0	0	402
Protected by fencing (ha)	0.5	134.49	25	0	160
Landholders (no)	0	12	0	320	332

### Strategy / Action Plans

A fire rehabilitation plan covering State Forest, National Parks, State Parks, Wilderness Areas and other parks has been prepared, and the Victorian Government has made available significant funding to undertake fire recovery works. Works funded for the fire area are catchment protection, asset replacement, pest plant and animal control, grazing management, and protection of indigenous and non-indigenous cultural heritage.

### Works

Rehabilitation of tracks and stream crossings commenced in February to standards approved by the CMA, along with preparation of a fire rehabilitation plan. The Eldorado and Stanley fires, which occurred on January 21, are included in the rehabilitation program. Re-opening the road system has received priority.

### PEST PLANTS AND ANIMALS

The North East CMA oversees action plans for the control of pest plants and animals including priority weeds and rabbits. There is also a “Good Neighbour” program to improve co-ordination across public and private land.

### Current Situation

There is ongoing implementation of the action plans. In relation to wild dogs this involves co-ordinated trapping, snaring and poisoning programs on public land. Ten doggers are currently employed in the North East catchment. Bushfires temporarily delayed the annual coordinated rabbit baiting program.

### Strategy / Action Plans

Action plans are aligned to the Victorian Pest Management Framework including the North East Weed Action Plan, rabbit action plan and a draft wild dog action plan.



*Purple coral-pea (Hardenbergia violacea)*

### Works

The “Good Neighbour” program has concentrated mainly on blackberry control in the upper catchments.

Fifteen project areas were targeted for implementation of the weed action plan and 95 percent compliance was achieved.

An infestation of *Salvinia molestra* was located and controlled in the Wodonga area. Continued mapping and control works on Chilean Needle Grass were undertaken in the Chiltern/Rutherglen area and in the Upper Ovens catchment.

# PERFORMANCE MEASURES

## CW201

### Catchment Planning

Performance Measure	Target	Outputs
RMP submitted by agreed date	1	1
Corporate Business Plan submitted by agreed date	1	1
Annual Report submitted by agreed date and conforming to statewide standards of biodiversity outcomes	1	1
Draft Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) submitted by agreed date	1	1
Aquatic biodiversity information and conservation management into RCS	1	1
RCS to address issues of sustainable utilisation of natural resources while enhancing biodiversity values.	1	1

## CW203

### River Health and Water Quality

Performance Measure	Target	Outputs
Annual Report submitted	1	1
North East River Health Strategy completed	1	0
Workshop / Community Forums held	-	5
Km of stream frontage fenced to maximise biodiversity outcomes	-	16.1
Km of exotic vegetation removed or controlled to maximise biodiversity outcomes	-	12.4
Km of riparian vegetation established to maximise biodiversity outcomes	-	16.1
Km bed and bank stabilisation works to maximise biodiversity outcomes	-	0.8
Km of streams restored fenced to maximise biodiversity outcomes	-	Included above
Erosion sites treated	-	1
Waterway Action Plans implemented	7	11
Community groups monitoring waterway health	10	10
Schools involved in monitoring waterway health	75	75
Councils participating in drain stencilling activities	3	3
Farm Nutrient Management works implemented to maximise biodiversity outcomes	30	25 projects allocated
Stormwater Management Plans implemented that improve management of processes that threaten biodiversity	6	5 projects planned
Reports to Implementation Committee	6	6

## CW204 Floodplain Management

Performance Measure	Target	Outputs
Number of referrals processed	100%	100%
Number of matters in which advice is given	-	139
Number of elements implemented	-	
Number of studies completed	-	3
Number of database updates	-	1
Number of initiatives undertaken	-	3
Reports to Implementation Committee	6	6

## CW205 Second Generation Landcare

Performance Measure	Target	Outputs
Reports to Implementation Committees	6	6
Grants awarded	-	29
Community Support Positions (co-ordinator / facilitator / project manager) positions	-	2 FTE, 16
Area treated for rabbits in 02/03 (ha)	-	3675
State and regional priority weeds treated (ha)	-	4500
Non -priority weeds treated as part of an integrated project (ha)	-	10
Vegetation establishment, enhancement and protection (ha)	-	120
Area treated for soil conservation (ha)	-	50
Landcare groups in CMA region (no)	-	49
Members per Landcare group within region (no)	-	40
Landcare networks within the region (no)	-	5
Groups per Landcare network (no)	-	1 of 20, Average 8
Area of CMA region (ha)	-	1,970,000
Area covered by each Landcare group (ha)	-	25,000 ave
Total area covered by Landcare groups (ha)	-	1,250,000
Landcare Group Action Plans developed in 02/03	-	11
Landcare group priority setting / planning sessions conducted in 02/03	-	38

## CW206 Sustainability and Dryland Agriculture and Land Management Plans

Performance Measure	Target	Outputs
Second Generation Salinity Management Plans prepared to achieve integrated land and water management	1	-
Land managed according to capability (ha)	-	2340
Saline land managed as a separate land class (ha)	-	220
Native vegetation protected / enhanced / established (NV Quality Index)	-	8
Reports to Implementation Committee	6	6

## CW208 Native Vegetation Management Plans

Performance Measure	Target	Outputs
High quality "bid"		RCIP
Effective Implementation		New project funding NHT interim
Effective Liaison		Portfolio Framework
Reports to Implementation Committee	6	6

## CW209 Private Forestry

Performance Measure	Target	Outputs
PFCV Project Team Meetings	4	
Contribution to overall plantation area (ha)	300	45
Report to Implementation Committees	6	6

## CW211 Good Neighbour Program

Performance Measure	Target	Outputs
Hectares treated	17,000	17,000
Hectares under long term control	2,550	2,660
Frontage treated (km)	7	7
Frontage under long term control (km)	7	7
Report to Implementation Committees	6	6

## CW212 Rabbit Management Plans

Performance Measure	Target	Outputs
Community awareness	On going	On going
Input into Catchment Indicator Project	4	4
Hectares of high priority areas treated	135,000	159,000
Increase Rabbit Free zones by 10% (ha)	1,580	2,100
Protect areas treated	3	4
Reports to Implementation Committees	6	6

**CW213**  
**Pest Animals Management (Other)**

Performance Measure	Target	Outputs
Action Plans agreed by major stakeholders	1	1
Reports to Implementation Committees	6	6

**CW214**  
**Pest Plants Management**

Performance Measure	Target	Outputs
95% landholder compliance	95%	95%
Implementation of Weed Action Plan	1	1
Project areas treated	17	17
Reports to Implementation Committees	6	4

**CW307**  
**Sustainable Irrigation**

Performance Measure	Target	Outputs
IDEP course conducted (no / participants)	8 /100	4/50
Grants provided for IDEP preparation (participants)	93	50
Irrigation and environment management workshops held	5	4
Demonstrations of BMP irrigation scheduling and soil moisture monitoring established on properties	4	4
Grants provided for irrigation monitoring equipment (no/ha covered)	20/3000	29/728.7
Metering equipment installed on farms	8	29
Grants provided for adoption of new delivery systems (no/ha covered)	20/250	39/1886
Demonstrations of minimising losses established	2	4
Field days held at loss minimisation demonstration sites	4	4
Reports to Implementation Committees	6	6

**CW317**  
**Surface Water Allocation Management**

Performance Measure	Target	Outputs
Completion of SFMP's	1	1 drafted 1 going for community consultation, 1 management rules process
Effective management of the incentive program		

# COMPLIANCE REPORTING

## MANNER OF ESTABLISHMENT

The North East Catchment Management Authority is established under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* and the *Water Act 1989*.

## RELEVANT MINISTER

The Authority reports to:

The Hon John Thwaites  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Water  
Minister for the Environment

## ROLES

To achieve the Regional Catchment Strategy outcomes, the Board has defined its purpose as follows:

- implementing the Regional Catchment Strategy;
- capitalising on the opportunities to protect and set the standards for improvement of land, vegetation and water resources in the North East Catchment;
- provision of a vehicle for “community wide” involvement in catchment management, particularly through the Implementation Committees;
- encouragement of ownership and accountability for land and water management;
- provision of leadership in catchment management;
- integration of management of land, vegetation and water programs;
- achieving equitable (and sustainable) outcomes in land use and management;
- setting up and maintaining a structural framework to deliver optimum outcomes, and
- adopting best practice methods to achieve both efficiency and effectiveness.

The key programs of the Regional Catchment Strategy are:

### Co-operation and Co-ordination

**Outcome:** effective co-ordination of sustainable resource management for maximum efficiency.

### Water Quality and Waterway Management

**Outcome:** high quality water for the growing regional downstream urban agricultural and industry needs.

### Land Management

**Outcome:** land sustainably managed to optimise agricultural production opportunities and infrastructure stability.

### Pest Plants

**Outcome:** pest plants efficiently managed to enhance agricultural production and environmental values.

### Pest Animals

**Outcome:** pest animals efficiently managed to enhance agricultural production and environmental values.

### Bio-Diversity

**Outcome:** maintained and enhanced bio-diversity to benefit future generations.

### Land Use Planning and Regional Development Program

**Outcome:** statutory and other planning documents incorporating sustainable management principles.

## POWER OF AUTHORITY

Water Act 1989 – S123 (1)

An Authority has power to do all things that are necessary or convenient to be done for, or in connection with, or as incidental to, the performance of its functions, including any function delegated to it.

## FUNCTIONS

Water Act 1989, S189 (a) to (d), S199 (1) (a) to (d), and S202 (a) to (f); Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 S13 (a) to (h).

Water Act 1989  
S189

An Authority that has a waterway management district has the following functions in relation to designated waterways and designated land or works within that district.

- (a) to identify and plan for State and local community needs relating to the use and to the economic, social and environmental values of land and waterways;
- (b) to develop and to implement effectively schemes for the use, protection and enhancement of land and waterways;
- (c) to investigate, promote and research any matter related to its functions, powers and duties in relation to waterway management;
- (d) to educate the public about any aspect of waterway management.

S199

(1) An Authority has the following functions -

- (a) to provide, operate and protect drainage systems, including the drainage of water into all designated waterways and all designated land or works within its district and, with the consent of the Minister, the drainage of water from that district into any water way outside the district;
- (b) to develop and implement programs for the protection and enhancement of instream uses;
- (c) to investigate, promote and conduct research into any matter related to its functions, powers and duties in relation to drainage;

S202

An Authority has the following functions or such of those functions as are specified in the Order under section 201 (1) (b) (ii), as the case requires

- (a) to find out how far floodwaters are likely to extend and how high they are likely to rise;
- (b) to declare flood levels and flood fringe areas;
- (c) to declare building lines;
- (d) to control developments that have occurred or that may be proposed for land adjoining waterways;
- (e) to develop and implement plans and to take any action necessary to minimise flooding and flood damage;
- (f) to provide advice about flooding and controls on development to local councils, the Secretary to the Department of Infrastructure and the community.

Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994  
S13

An Authority has the following functions

- (a) to prepare a regional catchment strategy for the region and to co-ordinate and monitor its implementation;
- (b) to prepare special area plans for areas in the region and to co-ordinate and monitor their implementation;
- (c) to promote the co-operation of persons and bodies involved in the management of land and water resources in the region in preparing and implementing the strategy and special area plans;
- (d) to advise the Minister, and, if requested by any other Minister, that other Minister –
  - (i) on regional priorities for activities by and resource allocation to bodies involved in the management of land and water resources in the region; and
  - (ii) on guidelines for integrated management of land and water resources in the region; and
  - (iii) on matters relating to catchment management and land protection; and
  - (iv) on the condition of land and water resources in the region;
- (e) to promote community awareness and understanding of the importance of land and water resources, their sustainable use, conservation and rehabilitation;
- (f) to make recommendations to the Minister and the Secretary about actions to be taken on Crown land managed by the Secretary to prevent land degradation;
- (g) to advise the Minister and provide information to the Minister on any matter referred to it by the Minister;
- (h) to carry out any other functions conferred on Authority by, or under this Act, or any other Act.

## CULTURAL DIVERSITY

No specific needs were identified during the year that required response measures.

The Authority will, however, identify potential needs in the Government Valuing Cultural Diversity document and develop agreed response strategies where necessary.

## WHISTLEBLOWERS' PROTECTION ACT

The objective of the Whistleblowers' Protection Act 2001 is to encourage and facilitate the making of disclosures of improper conduct or detrimental action by public officers and public bodies. The Act provides protection to whistleblowers who make disclosures in accordance with the Act and establishes a system for the matters disclosed to be investigated and for rectifying actions to be taken.

The North East Catchment Management Authority has adopted a Whistleblowers' Protection Act 2001 policy of procedures that establish a system for reporting disclosures of improper conduct or detrimental action by the North East Catchment Management Authority.

**A copy of the North East Catchment Management Authority's Whistleblowers' Protection Act 2001 Policy is attached as an addendum to this report.**

Disclosures of improper conduct or detrimental action by the North East Catchment Management Authority or its employees may be made to the following officer:

- The Protected Disclosure Coordinator:  
Graeme Taylor 02 6043 7613.
- All correspondence, phone calls and emails from internal or external whistleblowers will be referred to the Protected Disclosure Coordinator.
- Where a person is contemplating making a disclosure and is concerned about approaching the Protected Disclosure Coordinator or a protected disclosure officer in the workplace, he or she can call the relevant officer and request a meeting in a discreet location away from the workplace.

## Alternative contact persons

A disclosure about improper conduct or detrimental action by the North East Catchment Management Authority or its employees may also be made directly to the Ombudsman:

The Ombudsman Victoria  
Level 22, 459 Collins Street  
Melbourne Victoria 3000  
(DX 210174)  
Internet: [www.ombudsman.vic.gov.au](http://www.ombudsman.vic.gov.au)  
Email: [ombudvic@ombudsman.vic.gov.au](mailto:ombudvic@ombudsman.vic.gov.au)

Tel: 03 9613 6222  
Toll Free: 1800 806 314

No disclosures were reported during the year.

## YOUNG PEOPLE

The Authority co-ordinated a Youth Forum for students from throughout the North East to celebrate World Environment Day and encourage young people to have their say on environmental issues.

During National Water Week, the North East CMA participated in a joint water education campaign by conducting a water quality activity at Wonga Wetlands for Primary School pupils from both side of the NSW/Victoria border.

The Authority initiated the establishment of a youth support group to develop plans for a regional, cross-border youth forum.

## WOMEN

The North East Catchment Management Authority is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer and, as at the 30th June 2003, women represented 40% of the workforce.

Women occupied approximately 55% of the positions on the Board of the Authority and are represented on each of the three Implementation Committees.

The Authority's Enterprise Agreement provides females with an over-the-award paid component of 12 weeks maternity leave.

## INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

As part of the North East Regional Catchment Strategy Review, the Authority commissioned two reports relevant to indigenous issues, namely:

- A Desktop Review of Cultural Heritage of the North East Catchment, Victoria; and
- Protocols, Principles and Strategies Agreement for the Indigenous Involvement in Land and Water Management.

## EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

North East Catchment Management Authority is committed to the principles of Equal Employment Opportunity.

## INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

No time was lost due to industrial accidents and disputes during the period.

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

No requests were received during the year under Freedom of Information.

## NATIONAL COMPETITION POLICY

Where appropriate, competitively neutral price adjustments to outputs were made.

## PECUNIARY INTEREST

All members and senior officers completed their pecuniary interest returns and declared their pecuniary interest at meetings as required.

## WORKFORCE DATA

Number of persons employed:

As at 01/07/2002		As at 30/06/2003	
<b>Full time</b>		<b>Full time:</b>	
Male:	19	Male:	19
Female:	6	Female:	8
<b>Part time:</b>		<b>Part time:</b>	
Male:	3	Male:	2
Female:	7	Female:	6

## COMMITTEES

Board Attendance:

Member	No of Meetings	Meetings Attended
Sarah Nicholas	11	11
Terry Hillman	11	9
Lindsay Jarvis	11	9
Mac Paton	11	10
Anthony Griffiths	11	9
Christine Prendergast	11	9
Lyn Coulston	11	8
Noelene Wallace	11	11
Sarah Crooke	11	9
Kevin Ritchie	11	5
Carolyn Cameron	11	10

### Audit Committee:

The Audit Committee met twice during the year.

#### Members:

Sarah Nicholas  
Lindsay Jarvis  
Christine Prendergast  
John Riddiford

### Remuneration Committee:

The Remuneration Committee met once during the year.

#### Members:

Sarah Nicholas  
Lindsay Jarvis  
Christine Prendergast  
Terry Hillman

### Occupational Health and Safety Committee:

The OH & S Committee met three times during the year.

#### Members:

Graeme Taylor  
Terry McCormack  
Sean Guinane  
Glen McCallum  
Steve Mulcahy  
Julie Diano  
Veronica Lanigan

### Staff Consultative Committee:

The Staff Consultative Committee met three times during the year.

#### Members:

Graeme Taylor  
Terry McCormack  
Sean Guinane  
Glen McCallum  
Steve Mulcahy  
Julie Diano  
Veronica Lanigan

## BUILDING ACT COMPLIANCE

The North East Catchment Management Authority ensures that all works requiring building approval have plans certified, works in progress inspected and Occupancy Permits issued by independent Building Surveyors engaged on a job-by-job basis.

It also ensures that plans for these works are lodged with the relevant Local Council. A register of building surveyors and the jobs they certified is maintained.

The CMA requires all building practitioners engaged on its works to show evidence of current registration upon their engagement. A condition of their contracts with the CMA is that they maintain their registered status for the course of the contract.

No building works were undertaken during the reporting period.

## INFORMATION RETAINED AND AVAILABLE

In accordance with the requirements of the Financial Management Act 1994, all relevant information listed in Part 9.1.3 (iv) is retained and will be made available on request.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNITY AWARENESS

The relationship between the CMA, the community and key stakeholders is crucial to successfully managing the region's natural resources and implementing the Regional Catchment Strategy.

The CMA welcomes and encourages input from its community and stakeholders and actively seeks to establish partnerships to deliver outcomes.

### Presentations

Members of the CMA Board and management made a number of presentations throughout the region during the year. Presentations were made to local councils in the region, Landcare Groups, Rural and Urban Water Authorities and various community groups/professional organisations and various conferences.

### Water Watch Program

Through the North East WaterWatch program, jointly funded by the Natural Heritage Trust, State Government and local funds, water quality awareness programs have been established in a number of schools in the region.

## PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

The following publications and reports were produced by the CMA during the reporting year and are available at the principal office of the Authority:

Annual Report for the year ended 30th June 2002

Regional Catchment Investment Plan 2003/04

Corporate Plan 2002/2003

## CONSULTANCIES

Consultancies > \$100,000

Engagement of URS Australia P/L for services to renew the North East Regional Catchment Strategy.

Payments made to the consultant during the period 01/07/02 to 30/06/03 were:

Number	Total Cost of Engagement
One (1)	\$126,709

Consultancies < \$100, 000

Number	Total Cost of Engagement
Seven (7)	\$307,624

## OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Authority operates a safety management system and continues to review hazard identification, risk assessment and risk control of plant and equipment.

### OH & S Manual

The OH & S manual was updated as necessary to comply with changes to laws and regulations.

### OH & S Committee

The OH & S Committee met on three occasions during the year.

### Incidents and Dangerous Occurrences

No notifiable incidents or dangerous occurrences were reported to the Victorian WorkCover Authority during the year.

### Register of Injuries

Only three (3) minor injuries were registered during the year.

## SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL RESULTS

	Year Ended 30/06/03	Year Ended 30/06/02	Year Ended 30/06/01	Year Ended 30/06/00	Year Ended 30/06/99
Operating Revenue	8,859,234	6,892,228	6,810,357	6,712,107	6,693,416
Operating Expenses	(7,253,706)	(6,377,476)	(5,892,054)	(5,840,103)	(5,280,800)
Abnormal Items	-	-	-	141,453	(521, 966)
Surplus (Deficit)	1,605,528	514,752	918,303	1,013,547	1,160,650

### Subsequent Events and Significant Changes

There were no subsequent events which would have a significant effect on the operations of the Authority in subsequent years. The increase in surplus for the year can be attributed to additional revenue from grants and delayed spending due to the impact of the drought and bushfires in the North East.

# AUDITOR GENERAL'S CERTIFICATION



## AUDITOR GENERAL VICTORIA

### AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

**To the Members of the Parliament of Victoria, the responsible Ministers and the Members of the Board of North East Catchment Management Authority**

#### **Matters relating to the electronic presentation of the Audited Financial Report**

This audit report relates to the financial report of North East Catchment Management Authority for the financial year ended 30 June 2003 included on North East Catchment Management Authority's web site. The Board of the North East Catchment Management Authority is responsible for the integrity of the North east Catchment Management Authority's web site. I have not been engaged to report on the integrity of the web site. The audit report refers only to the statements named below. An opinion is not provided on any other information which may have been hyperlinked to or from these statements. If users of this report are concerned with the inherent risks arising from electronic data communications they are advised to refer to the hard copy of the audited financial report to confirm the information included in the audited financial report presented on this web site.

#### **Audit Scope**

The accompanying financial report of North East Catchment Management Authority for the financial year ended 30 June 2003, comprising a statement of financial performance, statement of financial position, statement of cash flows, and notes to the financial statements, has been audited. The Members of the Board are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial report and the information it contains. An independent audit of the financial report has been carried out in order to express an opinion on it to the Members of the Parliament of Victoria, responsible Ministers and Members of the Board as required by the *Audit Act 1994*.

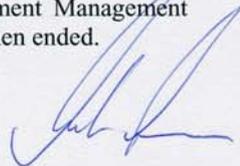
The audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. The audit procedures included an examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia, and the financial reporting requirements of the *Financial Management Act 1994*, so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the Authority's financial position, and its financial performance and cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

#### **Audit Opinion**

In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia, and the financial reporting requirements of the *Financial Management Act 1994*, the financial position of North East Catchment Management Authority as at 30 June 2003 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

MELBOURNE  
29 September 2003

  
J.W. CAMERON  
Auditor-General

Victorian Auditor-General's Office Level 34, 140 William Street, Melbourne Victoria 3000  
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Auditing in the Public Interest

# CERTIFICATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## CERTIFICATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We hereby certify that the Financial Statements of the North East Catchment Management Authority, comprising a Statement of Financial Performance, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994*, applicable Australian Accounting Standards and the Directions of the Minister for Finance – Part 9 Reporting Provisions.

In our opinion the Financial Statements present fairly the financial transactions for the year ended 30 June 2003 and the financial position of the Authority as at 30 June 2003.

At the date of signing the financial statements, we are not aware of any circumstances which would render any particulars included in the Financial Statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Management.



..... S.Nicholas  
**Chairperson**



..... J. Riddiford  
**Accountable Officer**

**Date: 19 September 2003.**

## NORTH EAST CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2003

	Note	2003 \$	2002 \$
Revenue from rendering of services	2	7,963,418	6,067,040
Other revenues from ordinary activities	2	895,816	825,188
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>8,859,234</b>	<b>6,892,228</b>
Expenses from ordinary activities, excluding borrowing costs expense	4	(7,253,706)	(6,377,476)
Borrowing Costs Expense		-	-
<b>Net profit</b>		<b>1,605,528</b>	<b>514,752</b>
<b>Non-owner changes in equity</b>			
Increase / (decrease) in asset revaluation reserve			
Fair value adjustment	13	196,219	-
<b>Total changes in equity other than those resulting from transactions with the Victorian State Government as stakeholder.</b>		<b>1,801,747</b>	<b>514,752</b>

*The above Statement of Financial Performance should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.*

## NORTH EAST CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2003

	Note	2003 \$	2002 \$
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash		2,217,172	1,049,118
Receivables	7	553,683	577,397
Inventories		133,595	189,325
Other financial assets	8	4,149,802	3,429,849
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>7,054,252</b>	<b>5,245,689</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Property, Plant & Equipment	9	1,853,196	1,608,953
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>1,853,196</b>	<b>1,608,953</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>8,907,448</b>	<b>6,854,642</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Payables	10	941,171	817,938
Interest Bearing Liabilities	11	8,964	-
Provisions	12	154,114	142,892
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>1,104,249</b>	<b>960,830</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>			
Interest Bearing Liabilities	11	80,676	-
Provisions	12	168,621	141,657
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		<b>249,297</b>	<b>141,657</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>1,353,546</b>	<b>1,102,487</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>7,553,902</b>	<b>5,752,155</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Contributed Capital	13	5,103,823	5,103,823
Accumulated Surplus	13	2,120,280	514,752
Reserves	13	329,799	133,580
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>7,553,902</b>	<b>5,752,155</b>

The above Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## NORTH EAST CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2003

	Note	2003 \$	2002 \$
<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>			
<b>Receipts (inclusive of GST)</b>			
Fees and Charges		700,950	275,882
Government Contributions		8,306,298	6,372,044
Interest received		235,780	185,152
Other Revenues		123,836	290,673
		<b>9,366,864</b>	<b>7,171,946</b>
<b>Payments (inclusive of GST)</b>			
Employee Entitlements		(1,602,567)	(1,500,297)
Interest & Other Financing Costs Paid		-	-
Other Payments		(5,522,051)	(4,689,040)
<b>Net Cash from (used in) Operating Activities</b>	14.1	<b>2,242,197</b>	<b>934,414</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>			
Payments for property, plant & equipment		(693,244)	(682,222)
Proceeds from sale of non-current assets		339,054	404,788
<b>Net Cash used in Investing Activities</b>		<b>(354,190)</b>	<b>(277,434)</b>
<b>Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash</b>		<b>1,888,007</b>	<b>656,980</b>
Cash at beginning of financial year		4,478,967	3,821,987
<b>Cash at end of financial year</b>	14.2	<b>6,366,974</b>	<b>4,478,967</b>

*The above Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.*

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2003

### PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The Authority is responsible for the coordinated control of resource management within the broader catchments of North East Victoria. The role of the CMA is to ensure effective implementation of the Regional Catchment Strategy. Associated with this role the CMA carries out strategic planning and advises Government.

### NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial report is a general purpose financial report prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Financial Management Act 1994*, applicable Australian Accounting Standards, and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

The financial report has been prepared on an accrual basis and in accordance with the historical cost convention, except for certain assets which, as noted, have been shown at valuation. The accounting policies adopted in preparing the financial statements are consistent with those of the previous year except where otherwise stated. Comparatives are adjusted where necessary to enhance comparability in conformity with any changes in presentation and disclosure.

All amounts shown in the financial statements are expressed to the nearest dollar.

#### (a) Investments

Investments are brought to account at cost with interest revenue recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance when it is earned. All investments expected to be disposed of within 12 months of balance date are classified as current assets and all others are classified as non-current assets.

#### (b) Inventories

Inventories comprise stores and materials used in the construction of new works. All inventories are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Costs are assigned to inventory quantities on hand at balance date on a first-in, first-out basis.

#### (c) Revenue Recognition

Amounts disclosed as revenues are net of returns, allowances and duties and taxes paid. Revenue is recognised in this financial report as follows:

##### *Fees and Charges*

Revenue is recognised when the services to which they relate have been provided.

##### *Grants and contributions*

Grants and contributions from the State and Commonwealth Governments are recognised and brought to account as operating revenue when they are received or when the Authority controls the right to receive them.

Grants and contributions received which are declared by Ministerial Direction to be in the nature of owners' contributions, are taken up as *Contributed Equity*.

##### *Goods and Services received free of Charge*

The value of all goods and services received free of charge are recognised as revenue when the Authority gains control of them or the right to receive them. The benefits derived from these goods and services are recorded at their fair values in the financial report.

### *Proceeds from the Disposal of Non-Current Assets*

Proceeds from the sale or other disposal of non-current assets are recorded gross, as revenue and the carrying amount of those assets charged as an operating expense. Details of the calculation of the gains and losses on disposal of non-current assets are shown separately in Note 9.4.

#### **(d) Bad and Doubtful Debts**

A provision is made for any doubtful debts, based on a review of all outstanding receivables at balance date. Bad debts are written off in the period in which they are identified.

#### **(e) Employee Entitlements**

The calculation of employee entitlements includes all relevant on-costs.

##### *Wages and Salaries, Annual Leave and Sick Leave*

Liabilities for wages and salaries and annual leave represent present obligations resulting from employees' services provided up to the reporting date, calculated at undiscounted amounts based on wages and salary rates expected to be applicable at the time leave is taken. Non-vesting sick leave is not expected to exceed current and future sick leave entitlements and, accordingly, no liability is recognised in these financial statements.

##### *Long Service Leave*

A liability for long service leave is recognised and is measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to reporting date. Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using interest rates based on national Government guaranteed securities with terms to maturity that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash flows. The nominal amount of long service leave expected to be paid in the next financial year is included as a current liability.

### *Superannuation*

The purpose of a superannuation scheme is to accumulate assets to meet members' benefits as they accrue. The Authority contributes in respect of its employees to a number of superannuation schemes administered by the Victorian Superannuation Board and the Local Authorities Superannuation Board. The amounts of the contributions to defined benefit schemes are determined by each scheme's actuary in accordance with statutory requirements.

The Authority's statutory contributions to these schemes are recorded as a superannuation expense (see Note 19).

Any unfunded liabilities in respect of those employees who are members of the above schemes are recognised in the financial statements of the Authority's Statement of Financial Position. Unfunded liabilities are defined as the difference between the present value of employees' accrued benefits at the reporting date and the net market value of the superannuation plan's assets at that date.

#### **(f) Leases**

Operating lease payments are representative of the pattern of benefits derived from the leased assets and accordingly are charged against revenue in the periods in which they are incurred.

#### **(g) Fixed Assets**

Fixed assets include land, land improvements, buildings, infrastructure, plant, equipment, furniture, leasehold improvements and motor vehicles. Items with a cost or value in excess of \$1,000 and a useful life to the Authority of more than one year are capitalised. All other assets acquired are expensed.

Fixed assets are brought to account at acquisition cost or in the case of assets acquired at no cost, at a fair value determined by the Authority in conjunction with the grantor, at the date they are acquired.

The cost of fixed assets constructed by the Authority includes all direct labour and materials used in the construction together with an appropriate proportion of applicable overheads.

## (h) Valuation of Fixed Assets

Subsequent to initial recognition of assets, land, buildings and infrastructure are measured at fair value, being the amount for which the assets could be exchanged between knowledgeable willing parties in an arms' length transaction. At balance date, the Authority reviews the carrying values of the individual classes of assets within land, buildings and infrastructure to ensure that the carrying value of each asset class approximates its fair value. Where the carrying value materially differs from the fair value the carrying value of that class of assets is written down to its fair value.

Fixed assets are revalued on a 3-yearly cycle.

Revaluation increments are credited to a revaluation reserve. To the extent that a revaluation decrement reverses a revaluation increment previously credited to and still included in the balance of the asset revaluation reserve, the decrement is debited directly to that reserve up to the value of that prior increment. All other decrements are recognised as an expense in the Statement of Financial Performance.

## (i) Depreciation (and Amortisation) of Non-Current Assets

Depreciation is calculated on a straight line basis to write off the cost or revalued amount of each non-current asset item (excluding land) over its expected useful life to the Authority. Additions to non-current assets in the financial year are depreciated from their respective dates of acquisition. Works in progress are not depreciated until taken up as a non-current asset.

Estimates of remaining useful lives of all non-current asset items are made on a regular basis with an annual review of all major non-current assets.

Depreciation rates currently applied to each class of asset are as follows:

	2003	2002
<b>Buildings</b>	2.5% to 5%	2.5% to 5%
<b>Infrastructure Assets</b>	1% to 10%	1% to 10%
<b>Plant and Equipment</b>	2% to 33.33%	2% to 33.33%
<b>Furniture &amp; Office Equipment</b>	7.5% to 33%	7.5% to 33%
<b>Motor Vehicles</b>	10% to 20%	10% to 20%
<b>Leaseholder Improvements</b>	12.5 %	-

## (j) Statement of Cash Flows

For the purpose of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash includes cash on hand, cash at bank and "highly liquid investments" net of any bank overdraft. Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the Statement of Financial Position (see Note 14.2).

## (k) Accounts Payable – Note 10

Liabilities are recognised for amounts to be paid in the future for goods or services received, whether or not billed to the Authority. Trade accounts payable are normally settled within 60 days.

## (l) Interest Bearing Liabilities

Interest Bearing Liabilities are carried on the Statement of Financial Position at their principal amount, subject to set-off arrangements. Interest expense is accrued at the contracted rate and included in "Other creditors and accruals".

## (m) Accounts receivable

All receivables are non-interest bearing. The carrying value of receivables at 30 June, 2003 approximates market value.

## (n) Goods and Services Tax

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the item of expense.

Receivable and payables are stated with the amount of GST included.

The gross amount of GST recoverable from and payable to, the ATO are included as a current asset and liability in the Statement of Financial Position.

Cash flows are included in the Statement of Cash Flows on a gross basis. The GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are classified as Operating Cash Flows.

## NOTE 2 - REVENUE FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES

	Note	2003 \$	2002 \$
<b>Rendering of services revenue</b>			
<i>from operating activities</i>			
- Government Contributions	3	7,326,191	5,816,238
- Local Contributions		50,865	34,566
- Fees and charges for services		586,362	216,236
		<u>7,963,418</u>	<u>6,067,040</u>
<b>Other revenues</b>			
<i>From operating activities</i>			
Interest		237,975	183,066
Miscellaneous		284,744	237,334
<i>From outside operating activities</i>			
Proceeds from sale of non-current assets		373,097	404,788
		<u>895,816</u>	<u>825,188</u>
<b>Total revenue from ordinary activities</b>		<u><b>8,859,234</b></u>	<u><b>6,892,228</b></u>

## NOTE 3 - GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

	Note	2003 \$	2002 \$
<b>Contributions to Operations:</b>			
<i>State Government</i>			
NDF - Sep 98		-	104,284
Catchment Planning		254,999	612,700
Second Generation Landcare		565,350	442,000
Sustainable Irrigation		1,298,000	733,800
River Health & Water Quality		2,786,000	1,702,824
Pest Animals		17,000	38,000
Floodplain Management		-	76,500
Native Vegetation Management		22,000	52,000
Regional Development		260,000	-
Commonwealth Government		1,453,242	2,054,130
Other grants		669,600	-
<b>Total Government Contributions shown as Operating Revenue</b>		<u><b>7,326,191</b></u>	<u><b>5,816,238</b></u>
<b>Capital Contributions:</b>			
<b>Total Government Contributions included in Income for Capital Purposes</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Government Contributions</b>		<u><b>7,326,191</b></u>	<u><b>5,816,238</b></u>

#### NOTE 4 - PROFIT (LOSS) FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES

	Note	2003 \$	2002 \$
(a) Individually significant items included in profit from ordinary activities		-	-
(b) Profit (loss) from ordinary activities includes the following expenses			
- Service Delivery expenditure		6,654,616	5,769,164
- Non-Service Delivery expenses		599,090	608,312
		<u>7,253,706</u>	<u>6,377,476</u>

#### NOTE 5 - SERVICE DELIVERY EXPENDITURE

	Note	2003 \$	2002 \$
Employees		1,721,429	1,537,813
Direct Costs		4,595,914	3,946,815
Leases		204	30,256
Depreciation		286,464	254,280
Other		50,605	-
<b>Total Service Delivery Expenditure</b>		<u>6,654,616</u>	<u>5,769,164</u>

#### NOTE 6 - NON-SERVICE DELIVERY EXPENSES

	Note	2003 \$	2002 \$
Governance Cost			
- Board		152,429	78,224
- Implementation Committee		41,549	63,529
Leases		-	28,253
Audit		4,700	4,800
Bad and Doubtful Debts		-	-
Written down value of assets sold		400,402	433,473
Other Expenses		10	33
<b>Total Non-Service Delivery Expenditure</b>		<u>599,090</u>	<u>608,312</u>

#### NOTE 7 - RECEIVABLES

	Note	2003 \$	2002 \$
<b>Current</b>			
Other Debtors		553,683	552,049
Provision for doubtful debts		-	-
Accrued Income		-	25,348
		<u>553,683</u>	<u>577,397</u>

#### NOTE 8 - INVESTMENTS

	Note	2003 \$	2002 \$
<b>Current</b>			
Fixed Term Deposits		4,149,802	3,429,849
<b>Total Investments</b>		<u>4,149,802</u>	<u>3,429,849</u>

Investments comprises money invested with National Australia Bank Treasury. The investments are due to mature in July 2003 and have a weighted average interest rate of 4.67%.

## NOTE 9 - PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT

	Note	2003 \$	2002 \$
<b>Leaseholder Improvements</b>			
At cost	1(g),(h)	98,431	-
Accumulated Depreciation		(8,162)	-
		<b>90,269</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Land</b>			
At Valuation - 2003	1(g),(h)	129,000	-
At Valuation - 1999	1(g),(h)	-	79,000
		<b>129,000</b>	<b>79,000</b>
<b>Buildings</b>			
At Valuation - 2003	1(g),(h)	288,500	-
Accumulated Depreciation		-	-
At Valuation - 1999	1(g),(h)	-	199,000
Accumulated Depreciation		-	(15,411)
		<b>288,500</b>	<b>183,589</b>
<b>Infrastructure / works</b>			
At Valuation - 2003	1(g),(h)	537,376	-
Accumulated Depreciation		(221,146)	-
At Valuation - 2000	1(g),(h)	-	321,625
Accumulated Depreciation		-	(28,682)
		<b>316,230</b>	<b>292,943</b>
<b>Plant and Equipment</b>			
At Cost	1(g),(h)	1,137,266	1,205,269
Accumulated Depreciation		(531,762)	(451,601)
		<b>605,504</b>	<b>753,668</b>
<b>Furniture and Office Equipment</b>			
At Cost	1(g),(h)	176,894	142,477
Accumulated Depreciation		(81,402)	(70,553)
		<b>95,492</b>	<b>71,925</b>
<b>Motor Vehicles</b>			
At Cost	1(g),(h)	466,559	344,660
Accumulated Depreciation		(138,358)	(116,832)
		<b>328,201</b>	<b>227,828</b>
<b>Gross Total Fixed Assets</b>		<b>1,853,196</b>	<b>1,608,953</b>

### 9.1 Basis of Valuation

- (i) Land & Buildings were independently valued as at 30 June 2003 at market value (land) and fair value (buildings) by Fisher Murphy Valuers, Certified Practising Valuer, AAPI, to a total of \$129,000 and \$288,500 respectively.
- (ii) Infrastructure assets were valued by independent valuers Earth Tech Engineering, Environmental Engineers, BE, on the replacement value as at 30 June 2003 less the depreciation associated with its estimated remaining life for a current value of \$316,230.

## NOTE 9 - PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT (continued)

### 9.2 Reconciliations of the carrying amounts

2003	Leaseholder Improvements \$	Land \$	Buildings \$	Infrastructure \$	Plant & Equipment \$	Furn & Office Equipment \$	Motor Vehicles \$	Total \$
Opening Carrying Amt	0	79,000	183,589	292,943	753,668	71,925	227,828	1,608,953
Additions	98,431	-	-	-	188,312	59,718	388,428	734,889
Revaluation	-	50,000	109,911	36,308	-	-	-	196,219
Disposals	-	-	-	-	(174,684)	(7,744)	(217,975)	(400,403)
Depreciation	(8,162)	-	(5,000)	(13,021)	(161,792)	(28,407)	(70,081)	(286,463)
<b>Closing Carrying Amt</b>	<b>90,269</b>	<b>129,000</b>	<b>288,500</b>	<b>316,230</b>	<b>605,504</b>	<b>95,492</b>	<b>328,201</b>	<b>1,853,196</b>

2002	Leaseholder Improvements \$	Land \$	Buildings \$	Infrastructure \$	Plant & Equipment \$	Furn & Office Equipment \$	Motor Vehicles \$	Total \$
Opening Carrying Amt	0	79,000	188,589	305,964	762,656	63,636	214,639	1,614,484
Additions	-	-	-	-	474,075	32,127	176,021	682,223
Disposals	-	-	-	-	(318,709)	(3,127)	(111,638)	(433,474)
Depreciation	-	-	(5,000)	(13,021)	(164,354)	(20,711)	(51,194)	(254,280)
<b>Closing Carrying Amt</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>79,000</b>	<b>183,589</b>	<b>292,943</b>	<b>753,668</b>	<b>71,925</b>	<b>227,828</b>	<b>1,608,953</b>

### 9.3 Depreciation charge for the year

	Note	2003 \$	2002 \$
Buildings		5,000	5,000
Infrastructure / works		13,021	13,021
Plant and Equipment		161,792	164,354
Furniture and Office Equipment		28,407	20,711
Motor Vehicles		70,081	51,194
Leaseholder improvements		8,162	-
		<b>286,463</b>	<b>254,280</b>

### 9.4 Profit and/or loss on sale of non-current assets

	Note	2003 \$	2002 \$
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	2	373,097	404,788
Less written down value	6	(400,402)	(433,473)
<b>Net profit/(loss) on disposal</b>		<b>(27,305)</b>	<b>(28,685)</b>

## NOTE 10 - PAYABLES

	Note	2003 \$	2002 \$
<b>Current</b>			
Accounts Payable		718,251	666,600
Accrued Expenses		222,920	151,338
		<u>941,171</u>	<u>817,938</u>

All trade creditors and accruals are non-interest bearing. The carrying amount of creditors and accruals at 30 June, 2003 approximates market value.

## NOTE 11 - INTEREST BEARING LIABILITIES

	Note	2003 \$	2002 \$
<b>Current</b>			
Unfunded Superannuation Liability		8964	-
<b>Non-Current</b>			
Unfunded Superannuation Liability		80676	-

## NOTE 12 - PROVISIONS

	Note	2003 \$	2002 \$
<b>Current</b>			
Employee entitlements:			
* Long Service Leave		20,000	20,000
* Annual Leave		134,114	117,039
* Performance Payments		-	5,853
		<u>154,114</u>	<u>142,892</u>
<b>Non-Current</b>			
* Long Service Leave		168,621	141,657
		<u>168,621</u>	<u>141,657</u>

## NOTE 13 - EQUITY & RESERVES

	Note	2003 \$	2002 \$
<b>a) Reserves</b>			
Asset Revaluation Reserve		329,799	133,580
		<b>329,799</b>	<b>133,580</b>
<b>Movement in Reserves</b>			
Asset Revaluation Reserve			
Balance 1 July		133,580	133,580
Revaluation increment on non-current assets		196,219	-
Net transfers (to)/from Accumulated Surplus		-	-
Balance 30 June		<b>329,799</b>	<b>133,580</b>
<b>(b) Contributed Capital</b>			
Balance at the beginning of the reporting period		5,103,823	1,757,582
Recognition of opening balance on adoption of UIG 38 / AFR No. 39		-	3,346,241
Balance at the end of the reporting period		<b>5,103,823</b>	<b>5,103,823</b>
<b>(c) Accumulated Surplus</b>			
Balance at the beginning of the reporting period		514,752	3,346,241
Net result for the year		1,605,528	514,752
Recognition of contributed capital on adoption of UIG 38 / AFR No. 39		-	(3,346,241)
Balance at the end of the reporting period		<b>2,120,280</b>	<b>514,752</b>
<i>The surplus represents grants committed but not expended during the financial year. Refer to Note 17 for further detail.</i>			
<b>(d) Equity</b>			
Balance at the beginning of the reporting period		5,752,155	5,237,403
Total changes in Equity recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance		1,801,747	514,752
Total Equity at the reporting date		<b>7,553,902</b>	<b>5,752,155</b>

## NOTE 14 - STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	Note	2003 \$	2002 \$
<b>14.1 Reconciliation of Net Cash provided by Operating Activities to Operating Surplus</b>			
Operating Result		1,605,528	514,752
Depreciation and amortisation	9.3	286,463	254,280
Net (profit)/loss on sale of non-current assets	9.4	27,305	28,685
<b>Change in operating assets and liabilities</b>			
Decrease (increase) in receivables		57,756	(43,814)
Decrease (increase) in inventories		55,730	(30,733)
Decrease (increase) in other assets		0	157
Increase (decrease) in creditors and accruals		171,229	173,571
Increase (decrease) in other provisions		38,186	37,516
Net cash from (used in) operating activities		<b>2,242,197</b>	<b>934,414</b>
<b>14.2 Cash consists of cash at bank and on hand (net of bank overdraft) and short-term deposits with a term to maturity of 90 days or less.</b>			
Cash at the end of the year, as shown in the Statement of Cash Flows, is reconciled to the related items in the Statement of Financial Position as follows:			
Cash at bank and on hand		2,217,172	1,049,118
Short-term deposits		4,149,802	3,429,849
		<b>6,366,974</b>	<b>4,478,967</b>
Less Bank Overdraft		-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>6,366,974</b>	<b>4,478,967</b>

## NOTE 15 - FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS

The Authority does not have an overdraft facility (2002: nil).

## NOTE 16 - LEASE COMMITMENTS

	Note	2003 \$	2002 \$
<b>Non-Cancellable Operating lease commitments</b>			
Payments due:			
* not later than one year		88,865	33,940
* later than one year and not later than two years		78,349	9,801
* later than two years and not later than five years		231,519	3,340
* later than five years		92,884	
		<b>491,617</b>	<b>47,081</b>

## NOTE 17 - CAPITAL AND OTHER COMMITMENTS

	Note	2003 \$	2002 \$
<b>As at 30 June the Authority had the following outstanding Capital Commitments:</b>		-	-
		-	-
<b>Outstanding Capital Commitments are likely to be exercised as follows:</b>			
<i>Payments due:</i>			
* within one year		-	-
		-	-

As at 30 June, 2003, the authority had outstanding works programs totalling \$5.6 million (2002 \$3.6 million) to complete during the 2003/2004 Financial Year. These programs are funded from government grants received in the 2002/2003 Financial Year as well as from accumulated funds

brought forward. Specific works programs are dependant on government funding being made available. Consequently there is a time lag between the date of receiving government funding and commencement of the relevant works program.

PROGRAM	Revenue Recognised			Outgoings			Unexpended Program Contributions	Outstanding Program Commitments	Variance
	Prior Yrs	Current Yr	Total	Prior Yrs	Current Yr	Total			
River Health	545,031	3,232,258	<b>3,777,289</b>		2,262,057	<b>2,262,057</b>	<b>1,515,232</b>	1,515,232	<b>0</b>
Water Resources	902,915	1,298,000	<b>2,200,915</b>		710,954	<b>710,954</b>	<b>1,489,961</b>	1,489,961	<b>0</b>
Water Quality	331,072	391,738	<b>722,810</b>		308,374	<b>308,374</b>	<b>414,436</b>	414,436	<b>0</b>
Native Vegetation	911,707	569,409	<b>1,481,116</b>		852,481	<b>852,481</b>	<b>628,635</b>	628,635	<b>0</b>
Floodplain	88,564	175,201	<b>263,765</b>		226,093	<b>226,093</b>	<b>37,672</b>	37,672	<b>0</b>
Landcare	253,346	1,151,943	<b>1,405,289</b>		1,023,688	<b>1,023,688</b>	<b>381,601</b>	381,601	<b>0</b>
Soil Health & Salinity	105,661	34,033	<b>139,694</b>		65,209	<b>65,209</b>	<b>74,485</b>	74,485	<b>0</b>
Land Management	10,623	198,934	<b>209,557</b>		214,038	<b>214,038</b>	<b>-4,481</b>	-4,481	
Pest Plants & Animals	88,273	17,000	<b>105,273</b>		71,911	<b>71,911</b>	<b>33,362</b>	33,362	<b>0</b>
Other Programs	482,004	630,543	<b>1,112,547</b>		170,074	<b>170,074</b>	<b>942,473</b>	942,473	<b>0</b>
Corporate	266,800	1,160,174	<b>1,426,974</b>		1,348,828	<b>1,348,828</b>	<b>78,146</b>	78,146	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,985,996</b>	<b>8,859,233</b>	<b>12,845,229</b>		<b>7,253,707</b>	<b>7,253,707</b>	<b>5,591,522</b>	<b>5,591,522</b>	<b>0</b>

## NOTE 18 - CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

As at 30 June 2003, the Authority has issued Bank Guarantees in favour of the Ministry for Agriculture and Resources totalling \$69,500. (2002 - \$69,500).

The Authority is not aware of any Contingent Liabilities existing at 30 June, 2003 (2002: NIL) which might have a material effect on the Financial Statements.

## NOTE 19 - SUPERANNUATION

### 19.1 Contributions

The Authority contributes in respect of its employees to the following superannuation schemes:

	Type of Scheme	Rate	2003	2002
		%	\$	\$
Jayar Superannuation Fund	<i>Accumulation</i>	9	15,339	13,800
GIO	<i>Accumulation</i>	9	-	3,466
Defined Benefit Local Auth Super	<i>Defined Benefits</i>	9.25 - 10.75	38,506	25,589
Local Authorities LASPLAN Scheme	<i>Accumulation</i>	9	23,752	17,752
AMP	<i>Accumulation</i>	9	6,978	4,896
ANZ Super Advantage	<i>Accumulation</i>	9	5,373	2,586
Australian Primary Fund	<i>Accumulation</i>	9	4,659	4,413
MLC Limited	<i>Accumulation</i>	9	6,477	3,558
National Bank Flexi Super	<i>Accumulation</i>	9	-	284
Super Trust of Australia	<i>Accumulation</i>	9	2,914	2,518
Vic Super New Scheme	<i>Accumulation</i>	9	11,462	7,562
Zurich Australia	<i>Accumulation</i>	9	8,595	10,057
Asgard Superannuation	<i>Accumulation</i>	9	720	640
GSO	<i>Accumulation</i>	9	11,220	10,540
Hesta Super Fund	<i>Accumulation</i>	9	1,528	1,115
MGC Superannuation Fund	<i>Accumulation</i>	9	720	640
AXA Australian Customer Service	<i>Accumulation</i>	9	6,931	3,089
Perpetual Trustees Flexiplan Master	<i>Accumulation</i>	9	900	480
Australian Preservation Fund	<i>Accumulation</i>	9	-	68
Sandhurst Trustees	<i>Accumulation</i>	9	3,421	854
Just Super	<i>Accumulation</i>	9	-	79
Norwich Union Life	<i>Accumulation</i>	9	544	627
Host Plus	<i>Accumulation</i>	9	763	539
Gundowring Super	<i>Accumulation</i>	9	5,814	-
<b>Total contributions to all Funds</b>			<b>156,615</b>	<b>115,152</b>

As at balance date there was \$4,811 in contributions payable to the above funds (2002:\$432). No balances were repayable in respect of loans made to the Authority from any fund.

### 19.2 Unfunded Superannuation Liability

North East Catchment Management Authority makes employer contributions to the defined benefits category of the Local Authorities Superannuation Fund at rates determined by the fund's actuary. The rate is currently 9.25%.

The Authority also has an obligation to share in the future experience of the Fund. Favourable and unfavourable variations may arise should the experience of the Fund differ from the assumptions made by the Fund's actuary in estimating the Fund's accrued benefit liability.

Based on the most recent full actuarial investigation conducted by the Fund's actuary, Mr Grant Harslett, FIA, FIAA of Towers Perrin as at 31 December, 2002, the Fund's Trustee has determined that the Authority's share of the funding shortfall in the Local Authorities Superannuation Fund Defined Benefit Plan was \$89,640 (2002: Nil). As details of the Authority's share of the net market value of the Fund's assets, the related accrued benefits or vested benefits were not available to the Authority, this information is not able to be disclosed.

The Authority has recognised its liability to the Fund as an interest bearing liability of \$89,640.

## NOTE 20 - RESPONSIBLE PERSONS RELATED DISCLOSURES

### Responsible Persons

The names of persons who were Responsible Persons at anytime during the financial year were:

- |                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| * Honourable S. Garbutt  | * T. Hillman     |
| * Honourable J. Thwaites | * M. Paton       |
| * L. Jarvis              | * C. Prendergast |
| * S. Nicholas            | * N. Wallace     |
| * L. Coulston            | * S.Crooke       |
| * A. Griffiths           | * C.Cameron      |
| * J Riddiford (CEO)      | * K.Ritchie      |

	2003	2002
	\$	\$
<b>Remuneration of Responsible Persons</b>		
Remuneration received, or due and receivable from the Authority in connection with the management of the Authority. The remuneration of the CEO is included with the Executive Officers remuneration.		
	101,077	72,000
The number of Responsible Persons whose remuneration from the Authority was within the specified bands are as follows:		
\$'000	No.	No.
0 - 10	7	7
10 - 20	2	1
The relevant Minister's remuneration is reported separately in the financial statements of the Department of Premier & Cabinet.		
<b>Retirement benefits of responsible persons</b>		
There were no amounts paid by the Authority in connection with the retirement of Responsible Persons of the Authority during the financial year.		
<b>Executive Officers Remuneration</b>		
There was one executive officer employed by the CMA during the year whose remuneration exceeded \$100,000.		
	2003	2002
\$'000	\$	\$
120 - 130	1	-

### Loans

There were no loans in existence by the Authority to Responsible Persons or related parties at the date of this report.

Responsible Persons remuneration outstanding at 30 June, 2003 amounted to \$23,907 (2002: \$4,000).

### Other Transactions

There were no other transactions conducted with responsible persons or their related parties during the financial year ended 30 June, 2003.

There were no other balances owing to or from Responsible Persons or their related parties at 30 June, 2003.

## NOTE 21 - FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

### (1) Terms conditions and accounting policies

The Authority's terms, conditions and accounting policies of financial instruments (cash at bank, debtors and creditors) are those adopted by business in Australia generally.

### (2) Interest rate risk

The Authority has no material exposure to interest rate risk on its financial instruments.

### (3) Credit Risk

The Authority does not have any material credit risk exposure to any single debtor or group of debtors under financial instruments entered into by the Authority.

### (4) Net Fair Values

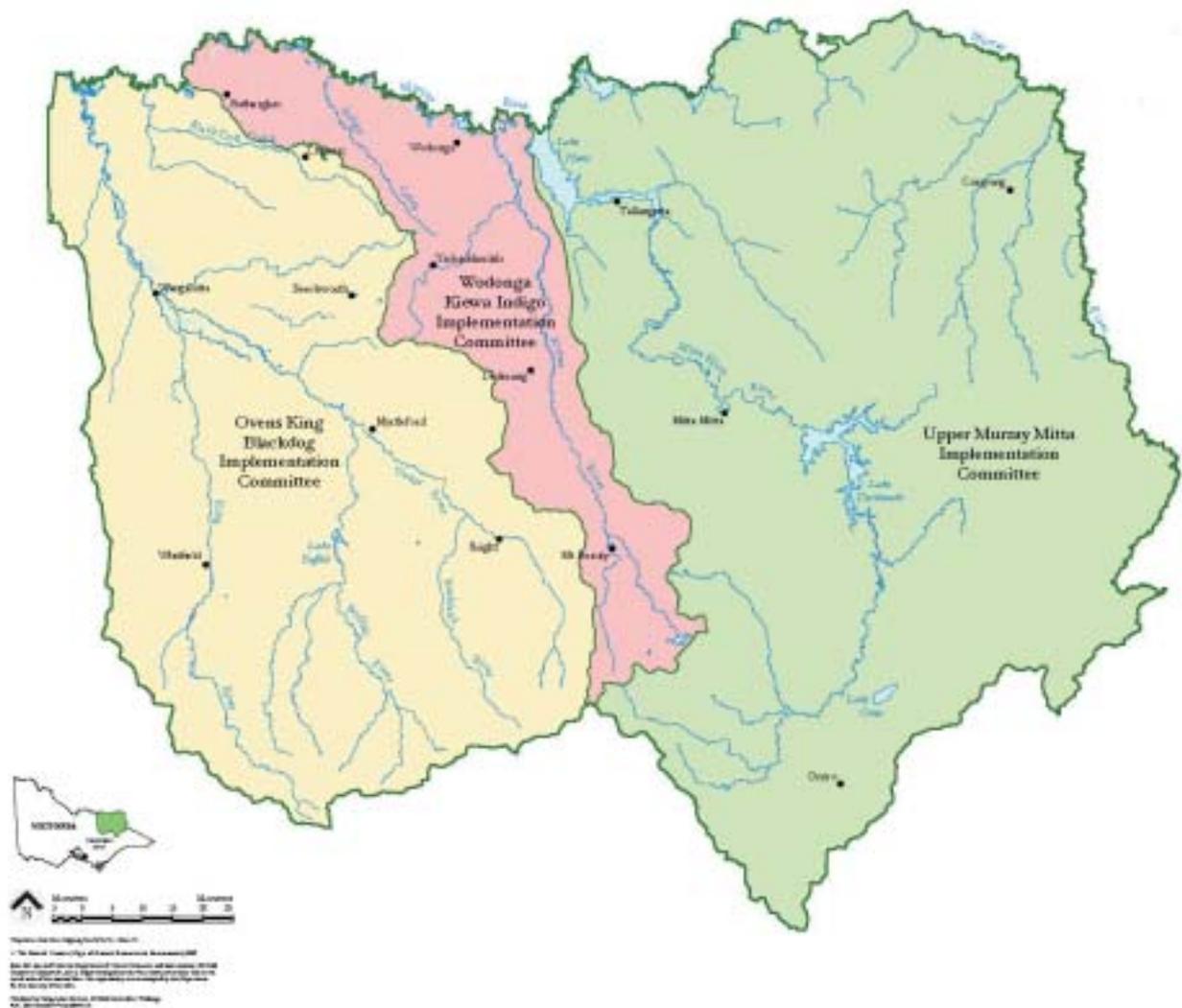
The net fair values of the Authority's financial assets and liabilities are not expected to be significantly different from each class of asset and liability as recognised in the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June, 2003.

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# NORTH EAST CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY REGION



## FACTS AND FIGURES

Population of Catchment:	92,000
Area:	1,957,000 ha
Public Land:	61%
Water Supply:	Region provides 38% of the total water to the Murray Darling Basin
Length of Streams:	10,602 km

<b>Major Water Storages (at capacity):</b>	
Dartmouth Dam:	3,906,400 MI
Lake Buffalo:	24,000 MI
Lake William Hovell:	13,500 MI
Hume Weir:	3,038,000 MI
Rocky Valley Dam:	29,110 MI

<b>Average Rainfall</b>	
Wodonga:	758 mm
Wangaratta:	670 mm
Corryong:	778 mm
Bright:	1169 mm



# NORTH EAST CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

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Front Cover: Burgoigee Creek, Murrungee

