

Media Release



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2 July 2008

MEDIA RELEASE

BROKEN HILL WETLANDS GET THE THUMBS UP BY MINISTER !

Minister for Climate Change and Environment, Verity Frith, today officially opened the \$1.5 million Mulga Creek Catchment Wetlands in Broken Hill.

The project is a joint partnership between Broken Hill City Council and the Lower Murray Darling Catchment Management Authority (CMA) with funding from National Action Plan for Salinity & Water Quality.

“The CMA, the Council and the community have worked hard to establish a wetland in sympathy with its surroundings,” Ms Firth said.

“This functioning three pond wetland will improve the condition of the riverine ecosystem by reducing the level of stormwater discharge and irrigation drainage directly into the river. The wetland will provide a filtering system, resulting in good quality water flowing to Imperial Lake.

“The wetland will also provide a tranquil area for the community and, importantly, a venue for student education on wetland systems.

“Catchment Management Authorities were established to foster community partnerships for the benefit of our bushlands, soils and waterways. The success of this project shows Lower Murray Darling CMA is doing exactly that and I congratulate all those involved in this project for their work,” Ms Firth said.

Since 2006, Broken Hill City Council has embarked on a major development aimed at improving the water quality in a major creek system for future stormwater harvesting and re-use applications.

The creation of a recreational facility whilst performing stormwater filtration, pollutant removal and temporary stormwater storage will benefit the community of Broken Hill.

Residents will also benefit from a better system of water re-use so that the community will have a more effective stormwater management system that recycles water for the environment.

The planting of native wetland plant species endemic to the area will have a positive affect on the enhancement of the area. Over time, as the water quality continues to improve, it will become a drawcard for native birds, frogs and smaller native animals to inhabit this wetland as their home.

The tourist potential of this wetland is currently unknown, but only time will tell.

“It is encouraging to see that the recent rains have assisted to fill the ponds and establish wetland flora. I look forward to being able to return and seeing a variety of wildlife flourishing in this superb wetland,” Ms Firth concluded.

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