

Media Release



32 Enterprise Way,
PO Box 363
Buronga, NSW, 2739
☎ 03 5021 9460
☎ Fax 03 5021 1308
www.lmd.cma.nsw.gov.au

1 May 2009

MEDIA RELEASE

Rehabilitation works are underway to improve and protect our river frontages

River frontages have long been a popular venue for Australians for meeting, camping, fishing, water sports and celebrating special occasions with family and friends. Easter and Christmas are particularly busy times for the river frontages where locals and visitors return to their favourite spot to meet and enjoy the natural beauty of the river.

Mark King, Chair of the Lower Murray Darling Catchment Management Authority (LMD CMA) said the LMD CMA is currently taking an active role in protecting and preserving these frontages by undertaking a series of rehabilitation activities to improve the health of the rivers and riparian zone for approximately 11.8km along the Darling and Murray River Systems.

“We recognise that many of these areas are very popular with local communities and we believe it is important to get the right balance between preserving the natural environmental and cultural values into the future, while people enjoy the social aspects of the river areas,” Mr King said.

“Often the reasons why people enjoy going to the river are the very things that can also be destroyed when accessing the area. Driving along the banks to our favourite fishing spot can kill the native vegetation that holds the river banks in place. The wood collected for fires destroys the habitat of native animals and insects that keep the delicate ecosystem in balance.

“The river provides drinking water for many towns and the frontages play an important part in the process of filtering and keeping the water clean”, Mr King said.

During the month of May, LMD CMA contractors will be undertaking a number of rehabilitation activities including track rationalisation, stock exclusion, pest animal and weed control across three demonstration sites located in Dareton, Pooncarie and Menindee.

An interpretation trail highlighting the values at one of the demonstration sites will also be developed for the community’s use and enjoyment.

Mr King said “It has been encouraging to have such a high level of collaboration and support from the stakeholders involved including private land holders; NSW Department of Lands and other government agencies; the local Barkindji community, the Indigenous communities, Wentworth and Central Darling Shire Councils and companies such as Boral Ltd.

Demonstration site promotional days will be held in June for stakeholders and the general public to showcase the RFAS project and how the rehabilitation activities have contributed to preserving the environment and community values associated with river frontages. The days will provide an opportunity to outline how these activities can be implemented on other properties within the Catchment.

Mr King said, "The LMD CMA hopes to attract additional funding to undertake similar rehabilitation works with other interested landholders in the Lower Murray Darling Catchment. This would support the delivery of the LMD CMA Catchment Action Plan Targets and NSW State Plan Targets.". Long term benefits include enhanced ecological systems, increased biodiversity of native flora and fauna as well as improved water quality.

ENDS

For Media Comment contact:

Mr Mark King
Chairman
Lower Murray Darling Catchment Management Authority
Mobile: 0427 272 207
Telephone: (03) 5021 9460

Mrs Lesley Palmer
Manager Corporate Support
LMD CMA
Mobile: 0428 620 090
Telephone: (03) 5021 9460