

Media Release



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MEDIA RELEASE

GET TO KNOW YOUR CMA! COOMBAH COMMUNITY PLANNING & INFORMATION FORUM

Coombah Station woolshed (Silver City Highway) will be the location for the next community forum facilitated by the Lower Murray Darling CMA on Thursday 14 May 2009 which will be an opportunity to discuss options for improving the natural resources of this catchment area.

A number of guest speakers will provide up to date information to landholders on issues of the area.

A major project funded by the LMD CMA was the Mesquite Eradication program that involved a number of local landholders as well as some major Broken Hill corporate organisations. Mr Stan Dineen, LMD CMA Board member will highlight this project as well as discuss the latest review of the Menindee Lakes.

Current drought relief funding will be expanded on by Danny Byrnes (Drought Relief Officer, NSW DPI) to ensure that farmers have the most up to date information to assist them. Also available will be representatives from Broken Hill Centrelink, Mallee Family Care and the Centre for Rural & Remote Mental Health, all encouraging landholders to seek drought relief assistance. This forum gives everyone the opportunity to know of and to access vital beneficial programs.

Groundcover is an important aspect for the catchment and each property. Noel Hayward (Teamleader PVP and Projects) and his staff will demonstrate aspects of groundcover and photo-point monitoring and its relation to the environment and will be available to answer all your questions on groundcover.

Lower Murray Darling CMA Chair, Mark King says that government funding to the LMD CMA has not as yet been confirmed. However in the interim landholders will be able to find out more about possible projects that could improve the natural resources in the area. It is important to empower the local people with better methods to manage their resources.

“Community input is essential to the success of this Forum and we invite everyone who is interested in engaging with the LMD CMA, from Broken Hill and Menindee to Pooncarie and Lake Victoria, to attend and discuss their issues” Mr King said.

“We want to open the floor to interested members of the public. It is their opportunity to have a say on how LMD CMA can establish better networking with the community and to give the Board some ideas for future direction and projects” he said.

“The LMD CMA cannot use its funding to lobby government on policies such as water management or legislation, but by knowing what the LMD CMA can do, enables a better understanding by the community of the CMA’s role within the Catchment.”

2008 LMD CMA activities have included Rangeland incentives for Conservation Farming, Conservation Threatened Species Habitat & Riparian Reserves, and Total Grazing Pressure Management. Irrigation incentives, training for approved courses, WaterWatch for schools and community groups and youth forums are fixed on the 2009 CMA calendar.

This community forum will be held from 11.00am at the Woolshed, Coombah Station, Silver City Highway. There will be a bbq lunch at 1.00pm where community members can network informally with Board members, speakers and CMA staff.

Community members wishing to attend are asked to RSVP for catering purposes (by 12/5/09) to Susan Walla or Sheridan Gale at the LMD CMA on (03) 5021 9460.

ENDS

Media opportunity:

The media are invited to attend the forum to gather information for dissemination via their media networks, and to speak directly with LMD CMA board and staff, and local landholders.

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