



## COMMUNITY NETWORK SUPPORT PROGRAM 2009/10 GUIDELINES

The Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority (CMA) is seeking to support community natural resource management (NRM) networks within the Hunter–Central Rivers Region by funding projects which assist community networks to deliver on the Management Targets of the Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Action Plan (CAP). The CMA has allocated the following funds from the Australian Government’s *Caring for our Country* (CFOC); the NSW Government’s *Catchment Action NSW* (CANSW); and the *Hunter Catchment Contributions* (HCC) funding programs, to this program.

Total project funds available for 2009/2010:	\$137,000
Made up as follows:	
CFOC	\$40,000
CANSW	\$57,000
HCC	\$40,000

A maximum of \$10,000 may be sought per group/network. Funding is only available for community support and capacity building actions which deliver outputs for one or more of the Management Targets of the Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Action Plan (CAP). Projects that also address CFOC targets will be eligible for both the CFOC and CANSW funding available under this program.

**Applicants should note that CFOC funding will only be allocated to community support and capacity building in CFOC priority areas.**

Projects in the Hunter Catchment that deliver outputs for one or more CAP management targets will also be eligible for HCC funding.

Projects that deliver outputs for one or more CAP targets, but which do not address CFOC targets, will be eligible for CANSW funding only. In the Hunter, such projects will also be eligible for HCC funding. Further information is included on the following pages and includes:

- Information for Proponents
- Application Form

### Contact Officer:

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***Applications close on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2009***

## Information for Proponents

The Community Network Support Program aims to assist NRM networks to support and improve the capacity of their constituent groups in resource management and to establish clear linkages between their work and the implementation of the CMA's CAP Management Targets.

### What is a Network?

To be eligible for CMA assistance under this program, a Network must meet **all** the criteria set out below:

- It has a Natural Resource Management focus
- It is a community-based, not-for-profit organisation
- Activities of the Network deliver on the CMA's CAP Management Targets
- The Network and affiliated groups operate in the Hunter-Central Rivers area
- The Network is an 'umbrella' organisation for several NRM community groups that also meet these criteria
- Is an Incorporated body
- Holds public liability insurance (\$10M), and additional personal accident insurance where required
- Demonstrates current engagement in projects and activities that address CAP Management Targets

### What is community support and capacity building?

In the context of the Hunter Central Rivers CMA, community support refers to engaging and supporting the community to actively maintain and sustainably manage the natural resources in the Hunter-Central Rivers area, and to assist in achieving the CMA's CAP targets.

Capacity building means giving the community and landholders the knowledge, skills and ability to confidently participate in effective decision making relating to management of their own natural resource degradation problems, so they can invest effectively and efficiently well into the future, independent of future government funding support (if necessary).

### What funding is available?

Projects will be funded to a maximum of \$10 000 per group/network, drawn from the funds below.

#### *CFOC Funding*

For projects to be eligible for the CFOC funding component of this program, they must deliver on one or more of the CFOC targets and on one or more of the management targets within the CAP. A summary of the CFOC targets relevant to this program is shown below, but proponents are strongly advised to become thoroughly familiar with the full detail of relevant CFOC targets which are detailed in the CFOC Business Plan, available at:

<http://www.nrm.gov.au/publications/books/business-plan.html>

#### Biodiversity and Natural Icons

- 400,000 Ha increase in area of native habitat managed to reduce critical threats.
- Suppress rabbit populations to recover threatened species
- Reduce impact of weeds of national significance.
- Mitigate threats to World Heritage areas.

### Coastal environments and critical aquatic habitats

- Address invasive species threats in Ramsar wetlands
- Address threats to coastal hotspots
- Engage 500 community organisations in coastal projects

### Sustainable Farm Practices

- 42,000 farmers using improved soil management methods
- 6,700 more farmers adopting biodiversity protection practices
- 42,000 more land managers/farmers with improved NRM

### Community Skills, knowledge and engagement

- Develop 20 partnerships with Indigenous communities
- 15 projects using/recording Indigenous traditional knowledge

### *CANSW and HCC Funding*

HCC funding is only available for groups which operate within the Hunter catchment. For CANSW and HCC funding, projects must deliver on one or more of the management targets within the CAP. A summary of these management targets is shown below but proponents are advised to view complete details at:

[http://www.hcr.cma.nsw.gov.au/catchmentactionplan\\_download.php3](http://www.hcr.cma.nsw.gov.au/catchmentactionplan_download.php3)

- 1** protect an additional 31,000 ha of native vegetation
- 2** regenerate 25,500 ha of native vegetation
- 3** treat 2400 ha of weed affected lands
- 4** implement priority recovery actions on 800 ha
- 5** manage an additional 52,000 ha of landscapes having physical, cultural or spiritual significance to Aboriginal people
- 6** protect an additional 4,600 ha of wetlands
- 7** enhance 2600 ha of wetlands
- 8** treat animal pests over 31,000 ha
- 9** manage 200 km of roads that affect sensitive areas using current best practice erosion and sediment control
- 10** revegetate 8400 ha of highly erodible soils
- 11** stabilise 800 ha of actively eroding soils
- 12** revegetate 1200 ha of salinity recharge areas with deep-rooted vegetation
- 13** improve nutrient management on 500 ha of land
- 14** stabilise 150 ha of salt affected areas
- 15** implement sustainable grazing management practices on an additional 19,000 ha of grazing land
- 16** develop and implement property plans for an additional 25,000 ha
- 17** protect an additional 1100 km of native riparian vegetation
- 18** regenerate 550 km of degraded native riparian vegetation
- 19** restore native fish passage to 60 instream barriers
- 20** stabilise 125 km of unstable or degraded stream channels and estuarine shorelines
- 21** improve habitat to 200 km of stream channels
- 22** maintain 420 Lower Hunter Valley Flood Mitigation Scheme structures
- 23** retrofit 620 ha of existing developed areas with current best practice urban stormwater management
- 24** improve the management of 120 sewage management systems
- 25** manage 75 estuarine floodgates to increase tidal movement
- 26** treat an additional 5000 ha of acid sulfate soils
- 27** revegetate 240 ha of degraded dune systems
- 28** protect an additional 21,000 ha of priority marine habitat

- 29 60 industry groups develop, adopt and audit an Environmental Management System
- 30 enhance 130 km of vegetation along coastal lake shorelines
- 31 enhance 250 km of marine shorelines

#### *Example*

An example of an eligible project might be one that provides support to community organisations in coastal projects (CFOC) revegetating degraded coastal dunes (MT 27) and/or controlling weeds (MT 8). This support could be for activities such as field days, training workshops, materials or administrative support. Projects must demonstrate how the community support and capacity building activities are related to the delivery of on-ground works contributing to CAP management targets and, if applicable, CFOC targets.

#### **How will projects be invited and assessed?**

Applications will be assessed by a CMA Assessment Panel that will recommend projects to the CMA Board for approval.

Successful applicants will be contacted by a CMA staff member and a contract negotiated. Progress payments will be made on the basis of 50% after six months and 50% upon completion, subject to meeting contract milestones and reporting requirements. ***Projects must be completed by 18<sup>th</sup> June 2010.***

#### **Evaluation and Reporting**

The Catchment Management Authority expects successful applicants to submit a report at the conclusion of the project that describes the capacity building activities that were conducted, relates them to the achievement of management targets, and quantifies the outcomes (eg the numbers of events, numbers of publications, number of people attending or the area of land affected by works or managed by participants in project activities, etc)

#### **How does your Network apply?**

Complete the attached application form and submit by mail or email to:

Hunter-Central Rivers CMA

Private Bag 2010

Paterson NSW 2421

Email: [Incentives@cma.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Incentives@cma.nsw.gov.au)

**Applications must be received at the CMA by FRIDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 2009**