



NEW ENGLAND NORTH WEST LANDCARE

REGIONAL UPDATE

Issue 55, 14th May 2012

CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY PROGRAM EXTENDED

The Government announced it will continue its commitment to Labor's flagship Caring for our Country program for another five years, providing \$2.2 billion from 2013-14 to 2017-18.

This continued funding will support a broad range of groups to undertake high quality natural resource management projects that are important to local communities and which contribute to the health of our environment into the future.

this announcement follows a review of the first phase of Caring for our Country, which found the program is on track to exceed its five-year outcomes in nearly all national priority areas.

PHYSICAL PROPERTY PLANNING

Limited funded places available for Online / distance learning through Rural Biz. An opportunity to set up your own Farm Plan— Map out what you want your farm to look like in 5, 10, 20 or more years. This training involves online training sessions/ virtual workshops, manuals are provided, use of a digital image of your property and FarmMap, computerised mapping software. Training starts in June 2012. Visit www.ruralbiztraining.com.au for details.

BOOSTING BIOSECURITY TO PROTECT AUSTRALIA

A \$524.2 million investment in Australia's biosecurity system

included in this week's Federal Budget will deliver a state-of-the-art quarantine facility and strengthen Australia's defences against pests and diseases.

"This facility will mean Australia will have the newest and most advanced technology available to manage the import of high-risk plant and animal material," Minister Ludwig said.

"The investments in this Budget further supports the Australian Government's commitment to building a flexible and responsive biosecurity system that protects Australia's unique environment and agricultural industries."

CARBON FARMING INITIATIVE FOR AGRICULTURAL ADVISOR WORKSHOPS

The Dept of Agriculture is hosting a series of workshops for agricultural advisors on the Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI). The free workshops will present information on CFI and include a discussion session to raise questions & provide feedback. The sessions are intended for *people who provide advice and services to farmers and landholders*. Places at each workshop are limited. Please email Natalie for further information.

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FACEBOOK APPLICATION

Facebook is cooperating with energy utilities in the US to make saving energy an online

community affair – it has an application which lets people monitor home energy use - if every US household cut energy use by 1%, it would lop \$1.6 billion a year from the country's overall energy bill, and be equivalent to disconnecting 1.2 million US homes from the power grid *The West Australian* 040412.

GREEN GLOBE AWARDS 2012

The NSW Government's Green Globe Awards are now open for nomination. The leading environmental awards recognise excellence, leadership and innovation in NSW. The 2012 nomination guide contains information on award categories, how to nominate and conditions of entry. Nominations close 7.6.2012.

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/greenglobes

GROWTH OF COAL SEAM GAS DRILLING

The rapid growth of Coal Seam Gas (CSG) drilling is one of the biggest challenges facing State and Federal Government regulators - one of the key questions about CSG is how to protect the water table - now leading hydrologists are questioning whether the industry can even be properly scrutinised - they say the coal seam gas giants have poached most of the scientists working in the field – after years of losing skilled experts, governments have lost their ability to assess projects independently – and



Send your news for the Landcare Update to Sarah Legge at sarah@gwymaclandcare.net.au



that they outsource much of their work to consultancy firms who also work for the resource companies ABC.

WRITING WINNING GRANTS

Our Community will host an *Introduction to Writing Winning Grants* workshop at the following locations:

Tamworth 7th June
Inverell 24th September

\$145 per person (afternoon workshop). Register at www.ourcommunity.com.au

BIODIVERSITY FUNDING ANOUNCED

Congratulations to the following Networks with successful applications;

GLENRAC - Control of honey locust to increase biodiversity & enhance conservation values - \$109,300

Granite Borders Landcare - Sunnyside biodiversity project - \$13,300

GWYMAC - Connecting vegetation & ecological communities in the Macintyre catchment - \$346,600

Liverpool Plains - Building landscape carbon & providing a safe haven for Liverpool Plains koalas - \$368,400

SNELCC - Ten years on: Building on past efforts along Tilbuster Ponds Creek - \$22,400

SNELCC - Dumaresq Creek rehabilitation & restoration program - \$44,200.

Congratulations also to all 3 CMAs who have been successful – BR-G with 2 projects totalling more than \$5 million, Northern Rivers with nearly \$4 million and Namoi \$0.5 million.

COMMUNITY ACTION GRANTS A

series of Community Action Grants films are now available showcasing how Community Action Grants are making a positive difference to their local landscape and waterways. For more information about Community Action Grants or to view the Community Action Grant films visit nrm.gov.au

DRAFT NATIONAL WILDLIFE CORRIDORS PLAN

Minister for the Environment, Tony Burke released the Draft National Wildlife Corridors Plan which is a proposed strategy for the Government to restore and manage ecological connections in the Australian landscape. Mr Burke also said national wildlife corridors would be based on voluntary cooperation and the existing efforts of communities, landholders, governments and industry. The Government and the Advisory Group will undertake targeted consultations with stakeholders. Anyone interested is invited to submit comments to the Environment Department before 20 April 2012. The draft

National Wildlife Corridors Plan is available online at: www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/wildlife-corridors/publications/pubs/draft-wildlife-corridors-plan.pdf. To submit comments go to: www.environment.gov.au/wildlife-corridors

BORDER RIVERS-GWYDIR CMA APPOINTS NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Border Rivers-Gwydir Catchment Management Authority (CMA) is pleased to announce the appointment of new Board Members, Angela Doering and Jim Benton. "The appointment of Angela and Jim completes the Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA Board team," said CMA Acting Chair, Leanne Savage. "Angela and Jim join myself, Jim Burley, Sue Hudson and Deputy Chair Grahame Marriott, to make up the six member Board. Both Jim and Angela have extensive experience in practical natural resource management issues and I'm confident their knowledge and skills will be a very useful addition to the CMA team.

FOSSIL-FUELLED FOOD

It takes 5-10 calories of fossil fuels to grow 1 calorie's worth of grain or vegetables – 35 calories of fossil fuel for 1 calorie of grain-fed beef – but only 0.5 calories of fossil fuel to grow 1 calorie of grass-fed beef *The Australian 020412*.