



4 December 2007

Standing Committee on Natural Resource Management (Climate Change)
Parliament House
Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Draft submission to the NSW Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Natural Resource Management (Climate Change) Inquiry.

Over the past decade, the NSW Government has introduced extensive reforms in natural resource management. One major initiative is transforming the way we handle these issues on the ground – the establishment of 13 Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs). These statutory bodies, established under the Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003, coordinate natural resource management (NRM) in each catchment.

CMAs are regional bodies that work in partnership with farmers, local groups, Aboriginal communities, local government, industry and State Government agencies to develop the best policies and programs for NRM at a catchment level. They are also responsible for administering a joint State-Commonwealth funding package (\$436 million from 2003-2007), money which goes directly into practical NRM improvement works.

The CMAs have Catchment Action Plans (CAPs) that guide the management of soil, native vegetation and water resources into the future. When most of these CAPs were developed climate change was not nearly as significant an issue as it is today, but nevertheless many of them refer to the issue (eg the Hunter-central Rivers CAP pp 71-73: "How natural resource management should respond to climate change").

Subsequent to CAP development the CMAs have partnered with the NSW Government and CSIRO to prepare brochures for each CMA region (eg "Climate Change in the Northern Rivers Catchment"), that summarise the climate change problem, impacts and actions in each region. Within these brochures the section "What's happening in theCatchment" provides a good summary of the numerous projects currently addressing climate change in each region.

More recently some CMAs have commenced development of "position papers" on climate change (eg Southern Rivers, Northern Rivers) that will outline in greater detail the way in which

they are addressing, and propose to address, climate change - through incorporation into their investment programs and projects.

Assisting the community to adapt to climate change, through partnerships delivering education and awareness activities, is a critical component of many CMA programs. For example the Northern Rivers CMA, in partnership with NSW Department of Primary Industries and Southern New England Landcare, is delivering three-day workshops on "Farming for Climate Change".

The CMAs in NSW clearly have strong interest and involvement in the climate change issue. They welcome the opportunity to contribute to this Inquiry, and are keen to provide further detail if and when required.

Please keep the CMAs informed of the Inquiry's progress, and of ways in which they can further contribute, by contacting Kerry Richardson - Manager, Strategic Services to the CMA Chairs' Council, using the following contact details:-

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Yours sincerely,



Pam Green
On behalf of CMA Chairs Council.