



Working with farmers
to improve habitat.

Media Release

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For Immediate Release

NEW SCHEME FOR BIRD-FRIENDLY FARM MANAGEMENT

Farmers in the New South Wales Murray Catchment area could soon be paid to create the right conditions for birds to breed on their properties.

NestEgg is a new habitat improvement program focussed on three iconic bird species - the Plains-wanderer, Brolga and Bush Stone-curlew.

NestEgg is an innovative, auction-style incentive program open to all landholders who live within the Murray Catchment.

Through the NestEgg initiative, farmers are able to decide what works they are willing to undertake on their properties that will meet the required breeding conditions for the birds. Farmers then need to estimate the costs involved and bid for funding explained Sally Dye, Murray CMA Board Member.

“Through this program farmers can be paid for reducing stocking rates or strategically grazing vital areas of habitat, leaving fallen timber on the ground or reintroducing it, fencing and revegetating areas, and controlling foxes and other pest species.

Funding will be allocated to bids that display benefits to the bird’s habitat, suitable management actions and offer the best value for money – not necessarily the lowest bid. The Murray CMA and CSIRO will evaluate bids using a set scoring system.

Successful landholders can receive upfront payments and bonus payments over a three-year program. Bonus payments may be made to those landholders who maintain good habitat for the birds and where the presence or breeding of the birds is identified.

“This is a fantastic program for the Murray CMA as NestEgg draws together local knowledge and national scientific expertise for the benefit of the species targeted” concluded Sally Dye.

Farmers need to register an expression of interest in NestEgg by July 13th 2007.
For further information about Nest Egg please contact Deanne Stevens, Murray CMA - Deniliquin Tel: 03 5880 1412 or 0427 352 117 or Alexandra Knight, Murray CMA - Albury Tel: 02 6051 2207 or 0428 429 985.

Background Information on NestEgg

NestEgg is an initiative of the Murray Catchment Management Authority (MCMA) and CSIRO.

It is being funded by the Murray CMA and the Australian Government's Market Based Instruments Pilot Program.

CSIRO is driving the research component and Charles Sturt University is providing technical advice.

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File images of the Plains Wanderer, Brolga and Bush Stone Curlew are available on request.
For further information on this media release, please contact

Alexandra Knight

Catchment Officer (Biodiversity)

Telephone 02 6051 2207

Mobile 0428 429 985

Alexandra.Knight@cma.nsw.gov.au