



# Review of the Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003

*Report*

Department of  
**Environment, Climate Change and Water** NSW





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*Cover (clockwise from main photo):*

View across the Tocal property (near Patterson in the Hunter Valley), showing grazing cows in the foreground, with wetlands and pastures in the distance (D. Barnes, NSW DPI); Kayaking at Marramarra National Park (S. Cottrell, Landcare); Oysters at Broken Bay (S. Cottrell, Landcare); Pelicans at Patonga (S. Cottrell, Landcare).

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Published by:

Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW

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ISBN 978-1-74232-473-9

DECCW 2009/726

December 2009

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## Minister's Foreword

The *Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003* is an important part of the comprehensive environmental legislation put in place by the NSW Government to protect the State's natural resources and biodiversity.

The Act establishes catchment management authorities (CMAs) as the key bodies to implement natural resource management at a catchment level in NSW. The CMAs have an important role delivering State and Commonwealth Government and private investment in natural resource management priorities in their respective catchments. To do this, the CMAs work in partnership with the community, industry, and other government agencies.

This review provided an opportunity for stakeholders to comment on the appropriateness of the Act's objectives, and the review has established that there is broad support for the Act's objectives going forward. I am pleased to report that stakeholders, and the CMAs themselves, expressed support for the current operation of the Act.

The review has also identified a range of administrative and policy matters for the government to consider further.

I am pleased to submit this report to Parliament.

John Robertson, MLC  
Minister for Climate Change and the Environment

## Executive Summary

A review of the *Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003* (the CMA Act or the Act) is required in accordance with Section 44 of the Act. The Act requires the Minister to review the Act to determine whether the policy objectives of the Act remain valid and whether the terms of the Act remain appropriate for securing those objectives.

The purpose of the Act is to establish CMAs as the key regional government bodies to manage the State's natural resources at the catchment level. The CMAs are responsible for developing Catchment Action Plans (CAPs) and facilitating natural resource management investment in their regions.

### The Review Process

The Act review was undertaken by the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) at the request of the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment. Submissions were invited on the review by advertising in public media and writing to a number of key stakeholders. Meetings were also held with the CMA Chairs' Council, CMA General Managers, and the Natural Resources Advisory Council.

Sixteen submissions were received on the review from a number of CMAs, representative bodies, other government agencies, local government, statutory bodies, and members of the public. The submissions expressed support for the current work of the CMAs and their contribution to the delivery of natural resource management at a catchment level in NSW.

The review has also considered the recent efficiency review of CMAs completed by the Department of Premier and Cabinet in March 2009.

It should be noted that the statutory reviews of the *Natural Resources Commission Act 2003* and the *Native Vegetation Act 2003* have been undertaken in parallel, but separate to, the review of the CMA Act. These three key pieces of legislation together establish the NSW natural resource management framework.

### Outcomes from the Review

The review outcomes can be broadly summarised as:

1. The policy objectives of the Act remain valid and the terms of the Act remain appropriate for securing those objectives.
2. A number of policy and administrative issues were raised that can be further considered by government.



# 1. Introduction

A review of the CMA Act is required in accordance with Section 44 of the Act. The Act requires that:

1. *The Minister is to review this Act to determine whether the policy objectives of the Act remain valid and whether the terms of the Act remain appropriate for securing those objectives.*
2. *The review is to be undertaken as soon as possible after the period of five years from the date of assent to this Act.*
3. *A report on the outcome of the review is to be tabled in each House of Parliament within 12 months after the end of the period of five years.*

The previous Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, the Honourable Carmel Tebbutt MP, requested that DECCW undertake the review on her behalf.

The Act was assented to on 11 December 2003. A report on the review of the Act is to be tabled in Parliament by 11 December 2009.

## 1.1 The Review Process

The review process can be broadly broken down into four steps:

1. Submissions were invited on the review by advertising in public media and writing to a number of key stakeholders.
2. The submissions were collated and considered to identify the key themes raised.
3. The advice of the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment (the Hon. John Robertson MLC) was sought to establish a proposed approach to address the key issues raised.
4. The review report was prepared for the Minister.

DECCW undertook the following consultation program as part of the review:

- advertising the review through a Public Notice in state-wide daily newspapers and specialised media to invite submissions on the review
- writing to a number of key stakeholders and NSW government agencies seeking their comments
- conducting consultation workshops with the CMA Chairs' Council, CMA General Managers, and the Natural Resources Advisory Council.

The review has also considered the recent performance review of CMAs completed by the Department of Premier and Cabinet in March 2009.

It should be noted that the statutory reviews of the *Natural Resources Commission Act 2003* and the *Native Vegetation Act 2003* have been undertaken in parallel, but separate to, the review of this Act. The agencies conducting the reviews collaborated during the review processes to ensure a common understanding of the issues raised in submissions on each piece of legislation, because these three key pieces of legislation together establish the natural resource management framework in NSW, and there are some synergies between them.

## 2. Natural Resource Management in NSW

In October 2003, the NSW Government announced reforms to the management of natural resources based on the recommendations of the Native Vegetation Implementation Group. These reforms included the development of new legislation and policy, and the establishment of new regional structures to manage natural resources. The purpose of the reforms was to streamline the delivery of natural resource management at a catchment level and bring an end to broadscale clearing in NSW.

Three pieces of legislation were introduced as part of the reforms to deliver natural resource management using a regional model:

- the *Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003*
- the *Native Vegetation Act 2003* (the NV Act)
- the *Natural Resources Commission Act 2003* (the NRC Act).

The CMA Act established CMAs as regional bodies to deliver the state-wide natural resource management targets and priorities at the catchment level. The CMAs are responsible for developing CAPs and facilitating natural resource management investment in their regions. Further detail on the role of CMAs is provided in Section 2.2.

The NRC Act established the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to develop state-wide natural resource management standards and targets and provide the government with independent scientific and technical advice on natural resource management issues. The NRC reports to the Premier of NSW. These standards and targets are implemented through the CAPs developed by the CMAs. The NRC also has a role in auditing the implementation of these CAPs to ensure they comply with the relevant standards and will contribute to achieving the state-wide natural resource management targets.

The *Standard for Quality Natural Resource Management* (the Standard) defines quality practice for natural resource management, and guides the CMAs in their work to achieve the state-wide targets. The targets for natural resource management are established under goal E4 of the NSW State Plan. The components of the natural resource management goals of the Standard and the state-wide targets for natural resource management are shown in Box 1 and Box 2, respectively (see page 6). The introduction of the NV Act was intended to ensure that any broadscale clearing undertaken in NSW improves or maintains environmental outcomes. CMAs are responsible for delivering the operations of the NV Act through Property Vegetation Plan agreements between government and landholders. Property Vegetation Plans ensure commitment to improve or maintain outcomes and may provide financial incentives to landholders for works that contribute to environmental outcomes.

### Box 1: The Standard for Quality Natural Resource Management

The Standard defines levels of quality for seven components of natural resource management:

1. **Collection and use of knowledge:** Use of the best available knowledge to inform decisions in a structured and transparent manner.
2. **Determination of scale:** Management of natural resource issues at the optimal spatial, temporal and institutional scale to maximise effective contribution to broader goals, deliver integrated outcomes and prevent or minimise adverse consequences.
3. **Opportunities for collaboration:** Collaboration with other parties to maximise gains, share or minimise costs or deliver multiple benefits is explored and pursued wherever possible.
4. **Community engagement:** Implementation of strategies sufficient to meaningfully engage the participation of the community in the planning, implementation and review of natural resource management strategies and the achievement of identified goals and targets.
5. **Risk management:** Consideration and management of all identifiable risks and impacts to maximise efficiency and effectiveness, ensure success and avoid, minimise and control adverse impacts.
6. **Monitoring and evaluation:** Quantification and demonstration of progress towards goals and targets by means of regular monitoring, measuring, evaluation and reporting of organisational and project performance and the use of results to guide improved practice.
7. **Information management:** Management of information in a manner that meets user needs and satisfies formal security, accountability and transparency requirements.

### Box 2: State-wide targets for natural resource management

1. By 2015 there is an increase in native vegetation extent and an improvement in native vegetation condition.
2. By 2015 there is an increase in the number of sustainable populations of a range of native fauna species.
3. By 2015 there is an increase in the recovery of threatened species, populations and ecological communities.
4. By 2015 there is a reduction in the impact of invasive species.
5. By 2015 there is an improvement in the condition of riverine ecosystems.
6. By 2015 there is an improvement in the ability of groundwater systems to support groundwater-dependent ecosystems and designated beneficial uses.
7. By 2015 there is no decline in the condition of marine waters and ecosystems.
8. By 2015 there is an improvement in the condition of important wetlands, and the extent of those wetlands is maintained.
9. By 2015 there is an improvement in the condition of estuaries and coastal lake ecosystems.
10. By 2015 there is an improvement in soil condition.
11. By 2015 there is an increase in the area of land that is managed within its capability.
12. Natural resource decisions contribute to improving or maintaining economic sustainability and social wellbeing.
13. There is an increase in the capacity of natural resource managers to contribute to regionally relevant natural resource management.

## **2.1. Content of the Catchment Management Authorities Act**

Part 1 of the Act contains the objects of the Act, definitions, and provisions requiring CMAs to adopt the state-wide targets for natural resource management. The objects of the Act are to:

1. establish authorities for the purpose of devolving operational, investment and decision-making natural resource functions to catchment levels
2. provide for proper natural resource planning at a catchment level
3. ensure that decisions about natural resources take into account appropriate catchment issues
4. require decisions made at a catchment level to take into account state-wide standards and to involve the NRC in catchment planning where appropriate
5. involve communities in each catchment in decision making and to make best use of catchment knowledge and expertise
6. ensure the proper management of natural resources in the social, economic and environmental interests of the State
7. apply sound scientific knowledge to achieve a fully functioning and productive landscape
8. provide a framework for financial assistance and incentives to landholders in connection with natural resource management.

The Act adopts the definition of natural resource management made under the NRC Act, and the standards and targets recommended by the NRC.

Part 2 of the Act contains the provisions that establish CMAs and their management and governance arrangements. Each CMA has a statutory Board that is responsible for managing matters relating to CMA functions and accountabilities. The Minister also appoints a Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson on each Board. Part 2 allows the Minister to abolish, establish or change the name or area of operations of the authorities. Provisions for the Minister to appoint a person to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of CMAs in exercising their functions under the Act are also contained in Part 2.

Part 3 of the Act sets out the functions of CMAs, including annual reporting requirements. CMAs have the general functions of carrying out or funding catchment activities in accordance with the Act, and other functions as are conferred or imposed under the Act or any other Act. The Act also gives CMAs the following specific functions:

- developing CAPs
- providing loans, grants, subsidies or other financial assistance for the purposes of the catchment activities it is authorised to fund
- entering contracts or do any work for the purposes of the catchment activities
- assisting landholders to further the objectives of its CAP
- providing educational and training courses on natural resource management.

Part 4 of the Act requires that CMAs prepare CAPs. The CAPs set investment priorities using catchment and management targets. The Act provisions broadly identify the processes for developing, approving, and reviewing the CAPs.

Part 5 of the Act requires each CMA to prepare an Annual Implementation Program (AIP) that sets out the activities of the CMA for that year. CMAs now prepare AIPs as part of an Investment Program that also includes elements from the previous Investment Strategy, Results and Services Plan, and Asset Management Plan.

Part 6 of the Act contains provisions on CMA financial matters. These provisions include funding arrangements, Environmental Water Trust Funds, investment powers, collection of fees for services, and catchment contribution levies. The latter two provisions require regulations to be established to have effect.

Part 7 contains miscellaneous provisions including: the Act binding the Crown; acquisition of land by CMAs; entry on land for inspections and construction works; and civil proceedings. Part 7 also contains the review provisions of the Act and regulation-making powers. Regulations can be made under the Act with respect to the Board of an authority, matters relating to catchment contributions, management of CMA funds, and matters relating to CAPs.

## **2.2. The Role of Catchment Management Authorities**

CMAs are statutory authorities that report to the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment. A list of the CMAs is provided in Appendix A. Further explanation of the roles and functions of CMAs is provided below.

### **Developing Catchment Action Plans**

Each CMA is required to develop a CAP under Part 3 of the Act. The CAP sets catchment and management targets for investment at the catchment level. The targets and priorities in the CAPs are developed in consultation with the local community and other stakeholders.

The Act sets out the process for developing the CAPs, including the process for consultation, submission, approval and publication. The NRC reviews draft CAPs and makes recommendations to the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment regarding their approval. The Minister is required to ensure that the implementation of CAPs is audited by the NRC at least every five years.

### **Catchment investment and assisting landholders**

CMAs receive funding for natural resource management through several channels:

- NSW Government recurrent operational funding and investment funding under *Catchment Action NSW*
- Commonwealth Government investment funding under *Caring for our Country*
- investment from local government, industry and environmental groups, *et cetera*.

To deliver investment funding, CMAs can enter into agreements with landholders or other parties for projects that will contribute to meeting the priority natural resource management issues in the catchment. CMAs also partner with a range of other government agencies and community groups to deliver training, extension and investment.

**Other functions**

Under the Act, CMAs can also be given responsibility under other pieces of legislation. CMAs have several important roles under the NV Act.

The Minister for Climate Change and the Environment has delegated the approval of Property Vegetation Plans to CMAs, ensuring that all plans issued by CMAs are in line with the CAP. A Property Vegetation Plan can allow landholders to obtain financial incentives for managing natural resources, and to undertake broadscale clearing and ensure that offsets are established for that clearing.

CMAs are also required to provide information about broad-scale clearing and offsets contained in approved Property Vegetation Plans when requested by the public, as well as publish information about feral native plant species in their catchment.

### 3. Outcomes of the Review

This section of the review reports on the submissions received, the key issues raised in submissions, and the response to those issues.

#### 3.1. Submissions Received and Issues Raised

DECCW received 16 submissions on the review. Submissions were received from a number of CMAs, representative bodies, government agencies, statutory bodies and one member of the public. A list of the submissions received on the review is provided in Appendix B.

The submissions expressed support for the work of CMAs and their contribution to the delivery of natural resource management at a catchment level.

All the submissions provided on the review have been considered and the issues collected into seven themes that reflect the Parts of the Act:

1. Objects of the Act
2. CMA Management and Governance
3. Functions of Authorities
4. CAPs
5. AIPs
6. Financial
7. Miscellaneous.

A number of issues were also raised in submissions to the review that are not directly related to the legislative powers of the Act. These issues have been noted for further government consideration. Stakeholder consultation will be undertaken when government considers these issues in the future.

#### Theme 1: Objects of the Act

The first aim of the review was to assess whether the policy objects of the Act remain valid. The review has established that the objects of the Act remain appropriate.

The submissions provided significant support for the current regional model to deliver natural resource management through the CMAs, expressing support in their capacity to build strong relationships with local communities, other government agencies, and industry. The CMAs were generally seen as effective mechanisms for implementing state natural resource management priorities.

Some submissions suggested minor amendments or clarifications to the objects of the Act, such as including an over-arching goal or vision for catchment management, or refining the role of CMAs. Other stakeholders suggested that the objects of the Act could include principles from other pieces of legislation such as the 'improve or maintain' environmental outcomes object of the NV Act, or the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD).

Some submissions also suggested that the objects include a reference to emerging natural resource management issues, for example climate change. However, it is not intended that the Act include an exhaustive list of existing natural resource management issues, or should be revised to include all emerging issues, but that it remain flexible enough to allow CMAs to address natural resource management issues.

The review has assessed that the objects of the Act are clear in their intention to establish CMAs and guide natural resource management decision making at the catchment level.

## **Theme 2: Catchment Management Authority Management and Governance**

Part 2 of the Act contains the provisions that establish CMAs and their management and governance arrangements. Each CMA has a statutory Board that is responsible for managing matters relating to CMA functions and accountabilities. The Minister also appoints a Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson on each Board. The Chairperson represents their Board on a collegiate and non-statutory Chairs' Council.

### **Authority staff**

Several submissions from CMAs expressed a desire to be able to employ their own staff, which is currently prohibited under Section 6(4) of the Act. CMA staff are employed by DECCW under Chapter 1A of the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002*.

The current employment conditions for CMA staff are proposed to be retained because:

- The NSW Government is generally seeking to simplify and consolidate employment arrangements and organisational structures. Maintaining employment of CMA staff through DECCW is in line with this policy.
- Establishing clear administrative and governance roles for CMAs, agencies (including DECCW), and the Minister is the best way to ensure efficient and effective delivery of natural resource management through CMAs. This can be achieved administratively through adequate Memoranda of Understanding, Service Level Agreements, and the updated CMA Corporate Governance and Financial Management Manual.

### **Ministerial control**

Some comments were provided suggesting a need for flexibility in the Act to allow the CMAs to operate under different governmental portfolio structures, and more immediate and responsive coordination for financial and reporting arrangements when requirements change.

There is currently no Ministerial power of delegation in the Act. There is no intention to introduce a broad Ministerial delegation power under the Act for matters such as Board appointments and CAP approvals. These decisions should remain the responsibility of the Minister. The current legislation provides the flexibility for the Minister to oversee significant matters while, if necessary, devolving some other administrative issues to the appropriate agency.

### **Boards of Authorities**

The submissions to the review broadly provided two views about the make-up of the Boards of Authorities. One group of stakeholders, primarily CMAs, supported the existing skills-based Boards, recognising that this approach is essential to the management of natural resources and therefore it should remain in the Act. A number of other stakeholders suggested that Boards should include specific stakeholder representatives, for example, from local government.

The existing skills-based Board appointments are considered to be the most appropriate because members are required to solve complex issues relating to natural resource management at a catchment level. This approach ensures that the Board, as a whole, possesses the necessary skills set, whilst keeping Board numbers workable.

### **Catchment Management Authority Chairs' Council**

Some submissions to the review commented on the operation of the non-statutory CMA Chairs' Council. The Chairs' Council is not established by the Act, but is an administrative group established by the CMAs themselves. The Chairs Council does not report to the Minister. The submissions provided overall agreement that the Chair's Council has an important role to coordinate issues across CMAs, and between the CMAs and other stakeholders.

A number of submissions also suggested that the Chairs' Council be formally established in the Act. Although the review recognises that the Chairs' Council is an important coordinating group, it is not proposed to establish the Chairs' Council legislatively. There are opportunities to enhance the role of the Chairs' Council administratively that do not require amendments to the Act. Options to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Council have been noted, and will be considered further by government in consultation with stakeholders.

### **Theme 3: Functions of Authorities**

Part 3 of the Act sets out the functions of CMAs, including the annual reporting requirements. The submissions received expressed support for the current work of the CMAs and did not raise any issues about the general specific functions of the Authorities under the Act. On this basis the functions of the CMAs are regarded as appropriate.

### **Theme 4: Catchment Action Plans**

CAPs have been prepared by all CMAs in accordance with Part 4 of the Act to set investment priorities using catchment and management targets. The provisions of the Act broadly identify the CAP development, approval and review processes.

Comments were received in submissions about the development, implementation and review of CAPs, with particular focus on the need for a 'whole of government' approach to natural resource management and commitment from other government agencies to implement the CAPs. The majority of the issues raised did not propose specific amendments to the Act, but were administrative or policy matters that have been noted by the government for further consideration.

Overall, the existing general framework for developing, approving and reviewing CAPs is regarded as appropriate because it provides CMAs and the Minister flexibility and adaptability when developing and approving CAPs.

## **Theme 5: Annual Implementation Programs**

Part 5 of the Act requires each CMA to prepare an AIP that sets out the activities of the CMA for that year.

The comments made on this issue in submissions reflect some misunderstanding of the current arrangements. While AIPs have been subsumed into the annual Investment Programs, they are still an important part of planning and decision making. Each CMA must continue to meet these requirements under the Act by preparing a plan that outlines how its activities for that financial year will deliver the CAP.

Investment Programs should continue to be prepared annually by all CMAs under the direction and control of the Minister. Investment Programs are important strategic documents because they contain financial-year-specific decisions about implementing the CAPs. These Investment Programs will continue to incorporate elements of the previously separate Annual Implementation Programs, Investment Strategy, Results and Services Plan, and Asset Management Plan.

Most of the comments made in submissions suggested that the review should clarify the existing AIP and Investment Program requirements. This is considered unnecessary, as managing this process administratively provides the Minister with flexibility to adapt and improve CMAs' planning framework more effectively.

## **Theme 6: Financial**

Part 6 of the Act contains provisions on CMA financial matters. Many of the issues raised in submissions about CMA financial matters were administrative in nature and outside the scope of the review. These matters have been noted for further consideration by government following the review.

### **Funds of authorities**

Each CMA must establish a fund to receive and expend funding from the NSW and Commonwealth Governments and other funding sources. The standard Net Cost of Service rules apply to managing these funds.

CMAs made two suggestions to facilitate greater flexibility in managing their funds: establishing trust funds under the Act; and allowing CMAs flexibility in their Net Cost of Service across financial years. The review recognises the financial challenges faced by CMAs. However, CMAs are subject to the same financial requirements as all other NSW government agencies. As such, there are no proposals to alter the existing financial arrangements for CMAs.

### **Environmental Water Trust Funds**

Part 6, Section 30A of the Act provides for CMAs, with the prior approval of the Minister, to establish and manage Environmental Water Trust Funds for the purpose of environmental water management within their catchment. The Minister has not approved the establishment of any Environmental Water Trust Funds to date; however, most stakeholders supported retaining the Environmental Water Trust Fund provisions of the Act.

### **Fees for services**

Section 32 provides that regulations can be made under the Act allowing CMAs to recover fees for providing services to a third party. No regulations have been established to date to permit CMAs to charge fees for providing services.

It was suggested in a number of submissions that CMA effectiveness could be enhanced by establishing a regulation that sets out the fees for services that the CMAs can charge. This issue will be further considered by government in consultation with stakeholders.

#### **Catchment contributions**

Section 33 (see Schedule 4) of the Act provides that catchment contributions can be raised by an Authority, with the Minister's approval, to fund on-ground works or construction on lands to deliver the CAP. The Hunter–Central Rivers CMA is the only Authority that currently collects a catchment contribution, under the *Hunter–Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority Regulation 2005*.

CMAs expressed strong support for the ability to raise and collect catchment contributions. It is appropriate to retain this provision in the legislation.

#### **Theme 7: Miscellaneous**

The miscellaneous provisions of the Act remain appropriate for securing the Act objectives.

## 4. Conclusion

The review has established that the objects of the Act remain valid and that the terms of the Act remain appropriate for securing those objectives. The majority of stakeholders expressed support for the work of CMAs in delivering natural resource management at the catchment level in NSW.

The submissions to the review showed support for the current objects of the Act. Some suggestions to clarify the objects of the Act were made; however, the review has assessed that the objects of the Act are clear in their intention to establish CMAs and guide natural resource management decision-making at the catchment level.

A number of other amendments to the Act were proposed for the provisions relating to CMA staff employment, CMA Boards and the Chairs' Council, Catchment Action Plans, and financial matters. The review has identified that the issues raised would be best addressed administratively, as this allows the Act to provide a general legal framework for establishing CMAs and their broad management and governance arrangements. It is not proposed to include more detailed prescriptions about CMA functions and operational matters in the Act because this limits the flexibility of the government in responding to changes in natural resource management policy.

The administrative and policy issues additionally raised in submissions have been noted by government for future consideration. Any further action by government to address these matters will be undertaken in consultation with stakeholders.

## Appendix A: List of Catchment Management Authorities

1. Border Rivers–Gwydir Catchment Management Authority
2. Central West Catchment Management Authority
3. Hawkesbury–Nepean Catchment Management Authority
4. Hunter–Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority
5. Lachlan Catchment Management Authority
6. Lower Murray–Darling Catchment Management Authority
7. Murray Catchment Management Authority
8. Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority
9. Namoi Catchment Management Authority
10. Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority
11. Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority
12. Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority
13. Western Catchment Management Authority



Source: Catchment Management Authorities website ([www.cma.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cma.nsw.gov.au))

## Appendix B: List of Submissions Received

The Director General of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water wrote to a number of key stakeholders seeking submissions on the review:

- CMA Chairs' Council
- CMA General Managers' Forum
- Department of Aboriginal Affairs
- Department of Lands
- Department of Local Government
- Department of Planning
- Department of Premier and Cabinet
- Department of Primary Industries (now the Department of Industry and Investment)
- Local Government and Shires Association
- Ministry for Science and Medical Research
- Natural Resources Advisory Council
- Natural Resources Commission
- NSW Treasury

The following submissions were received on the review:

- Border Rivers–Gwydir Catchment Management Authority
- CMA Chairs' Council
- Department of Lands
- Department of Local Government
- Department of Planning
- Department of Primary Industries
- Hunter–Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority
- Local Government and Shires Association
- Marine Parks Authority
- Murray Catchment Management Authority
- Ms R. Jensen
- Natural Resources Advisory Council
- Natural Resources Commission
- NSW Treasury
- Sydney Metro Catchment Management Authority
- Western Catchment Management Authority

## Acronyms

AIP	Annual Implementation Program
CAP	Catchment Action Plan
CMA	Catchment Management Authority
DECCW	Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW
ESD	Ecologically Sustainable Development
NRC	Natural Resources Commission
NRC Act	Natural Resources Commission Act 2003
NV Act	Native Vegetation Act 2003





