



New South Wales

**MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES
MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES
MINISTER FOR MINERAL RESOURCES**

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 17 October, 2006

\$4.8 million Agreement Signed by Namoi CMA and Cotton CRC

The Namoi Catchment Authority (CMA) and the Cotton Catchment Communities (CRC) have signed a partnership agreement worth \$4.8 million, Natural Resources Minister Ian Macdonald said today.

The Minister said the new funding would be used to improve the health of the entire Namoi Catchment through better management of natural resources.

“Never has that been so important as at this time, with most of the State in the grip of the worst drought in 100 years,” Minister Macdonald said.

“Partnerships like this one are the future for development in rural areas, sustainable partnerships that value the environment as well as the natural resources on which these industries depend.”

Minister Macdonald said the three-year partnership agreement, funded through the CMA’s investment strategy, represents a large-scale government and industry commitment.

“This agreement sees a commitment to increase resources and the information available to growers to help them adopt natural resource best management practices,” he said.

“Through providing this incentive funding, Namoi CMA will help cotton growers adopt large-scale land management change by ensuring the best technical data is being used to make sound economic and environmental decisions.

“This partnership aims to improve the management of native plants and animals. It will also improve management of our rivers, as well as soil health through improved water use efficiency and soil management.”

The Namoi CMA will directly contribute \$2.4 million over the next three years to this project; the funding will be matched by Cotton CRC and its partners and growers with another \$2.4 million worth of cash and in-kind contributions.

“The Lemna Government is proud to support this regional model – it is part of a new direction the Government has taken in natural resource management,” he said.

“This funding represents a milestone in co-operation between Namoi CMA and the local cotton industry to help improve natural resource management and sustainable farming practices in the Namoi Catchment.”

Media Contact: Jason Bartlett, 0438 209 281