



Media Release

Monday, 24 August 2009

Results flowing back on Groundwater Monitoring program

The results of landholder monitoring of groundwater quality across the Namoi Catchment will be made available at public meetings next week in Wee Waa and Gunnedah.

Namoi CMA, in partnership with the Cotton CRC, embarked on a groundwater quality monitoring program which included sampling from monitoring bores and a community based sampling of pumping bores by growers.

Around 70 groundwater samples were collected from growers for major ion analysis.

Dr Wendy Timms, from the Water Research Laboratory at the UNSW, said "there was a good spread of samples with about 1/3 from the Lower Namoi, 2/3 from the Upper Namoi and a few from the Peel and Manilla subcatchments.

"These samples have been analysed and the results will be relayed to provide feedback to growers and other interested parties next week.

"The information that is gathered by growers is very valuable in understanding groundwater salinity at the point of use.

Ingrid Roth and her team from GHD Hassall are working with UNSW to survey growers about groundwater monitoring. "This program was a baseline study and we would like to hear back from the growers if they are interested in continuing to participate in monitoring groundwater quality and if so, have a say about how they would like to go about it," Ingrid said.

Topics include:

- update of groundwater condition drawing on new data and DECCW data
- drawdown and salinity changes Zone by Zone
- results of the grower sampling and comparison with monitoring bore data
- findings from the grower survey about monitoring

Monday, 31st August – Zone 3, at 4 pm -Gunnedah Services Club

Tuesday, 1st September

- Lower Namoi - starting 8 am - Wee Waa Bowling Club
- Upper Namoi - starting 3 pm - Gunnedah Services Club

Workshop enquiries: Namoi CMA, Namoi Water, Cotton CRC, or UNSW WRL
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ENDS...

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