



Media Release

Thursday, 6 August 2009

Do you have an upland wetland on your property?

If so, Namoi CMA would like to work with you to conserve and manage it better.

Nathan Penny, Riparian Officer with Namoi CMA said “upland wetlands in the Namoi Catchment are a unique type of wetland found primarily above elevations of 700m and mostly on private land around Nundle, Walcha, Bendemeer and towards Kingstown.

“They are normally groundwater fed and when full can seep into rivers and streams. They occur either as areas of open “grassy” or “heathy” vegetation and can range from temporary bogs and waterbodies to relatively permanent lagoons occupying small areas (0.25ha to 10ha).

“The variable wetting and drying of these wetlands combined with their shallowness creates a mosaic of habitats which supports a wide variety of native plants and animals.

“The chain of upland wetlands found on the Tablelands is used by rare bird species including the Blue Billed duck and Magpie Geese. They are even used by internationally protected migratory birds like Latham’s Snipe. These wetlands also provide vital habitats for frogs, turtles and eels.”

Nathan said that many of the upland wetlands no longer exist due to past landuses and overgrazing.

“Namoi CMA wants to address these threats to ensure their long term survival,” he said.

Some of the management strategies that will help protect these wetlands include:

- reinstating natural water flows and preventing further draining or damming of these wetlands
- protecting them from unrestricted livestock access by fencing and providing off stream watering points e.g. troughs
- implementing feral animal control programs and weed control programs
- revegetating buffer zones around the wetland to help protect it against nutrient and sediment run off.

Landholders will benefit from protecting these wetlands through longer periods of flow in draining streams for dry times; better filtering of sediment and nutrients to improve water quality; and the protection of stock from hazardous bog areas.

Namoi CMA is able to provide advice and assistance to better conserve and manage upland wetlands.

There is also a small incentive funding program targeted at improving the condition of upland wetlands. Expressions of Interest for this program close on 31 August 2009.

If you would like to know more about protecting upland wetlands and working with Namoi CMA call Nathan Penny on 6764 5910 or Adam Downey on 6764 5916.

The Upland Wetlands program is funding by the Australian Government's Caring For Our Country program.

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Caption: Upland wetlands are typically found in areas above 700m. This is an example of one near Bendemeer.