



**Sharon Grierson MP**  
Federal Member for Newcastle

**Media Release**  
**3 July 2009**

**Sharon Grierson Congratulates Hunter Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority**

Federal Member for Newcastle, Sharon Grierson MP, was today very pleased to announce \$10,477,009 in funding to the Hunter Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority (HCRCMA) for its important resource and conservation work.

"The conservation and sustainability of our natural resources is a core goal for both myself and the Rudd Labor Government," Ms Grierson said.

"This funding will allow the HCRMA to continue its important work, providing support and advice to public and private landholders to undertake natural resource management projects that ultimately improve the health and productivity of our catchments."

"This is about taking on the big issues – water and resource conservation that will benefit not only Newcastle, but all of our surrounding regions for future generations."

"Not only will this funding help farmers continue their great work, it will support regional economies and jobs at the same time, which is so important during a global recession."

The HCRCMA plays an integral role in managing a unique and diverse stretch along the east coast of NSW - 37,000 square kilometres, from Taree in the North, to the Central Coast in the south and the Great Dividing Range in the west.

\$9,007,008 of the funding will be spread over a four year period, establishing foundation investments in biodiversity, weeds of national existence, World Heritage and Ramsar Wetlands, sustainable farm practices, coastal hotspots and community, skills, knowledge and engagement.

The remaining \$1,470,000 will go towards the Hunter Coastal Hotspot and Ramsar Improvement Project, which is aiming to improve the Hunter Estuary through activities specifically addressing the 'Caring for our Country' program

The Program is a \$403 million commitment by the Rudd Labor Government to supporting environmental and sustainable farming projects across Australia.

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