

## Improving Water Quality in the Paroo:

The Paroo River is listed as a high ecological value aquatic ecosystem (or HEVAE), and South West NRM is contracted by the federal government, through the National Landcare Programme (NLP), to undertake projects and investments that help assist land managers and community groups to value, protect and support the landscape function of this important catchment. The Paroo River runs through Currawinya National Park, which is listed on the national estate as a Ramsar wetland.

South West NRM staff recently conducted site inspections on two properties that were successful in securing NLP Ramsar funding to help protect the fragile ecosystems of the Paroo.

### *Merimo:*

Through an EOI process back in 2015, Shane and Peta Warner of *Merimo* (20km west of Eulo) were successful in obtaining support funding to undertake 24km of riparian fencing works with alternative off stream water points to control grazing pressure from both domestic and feral animals.

The Warners have recently completed their project, and it has seen some outstanding results - specifically improving ground cover prevalence within the exclusion zones of the project location. The fencing has also enhanced the removal of feral pests (primarily goats) from the riverine system. Great job Shane and Peta, what fantastic outcomes!



Above: Shane Warner of *Merimo*, adjacent to newly implemented fencing. Yowah Creek runs in the background.



## Varna Station:

Col and Jo Creagh, of Varna, are located at the top headwaters of the Paroo River. Also under the National Landcare Programme's (NLP) Ramsar investment theme, Col and Jo undertook on-ground works to prevent uncontrolled grazing from both feral and domestic animals impacting upon a natural waterhole on Varna.

NLP's Ramsar projects focus on protecting the Paroo River before it enters into the Currawinya Lakes system - the Creagh's endeavours fit perfectly into this category, as their main aim was to provide off-stream water points to reduce erosional impacts on the riparian zone of the Paroo.

Col and Jo have now completed their project, and South West NRM staff recently visited Varna to conduct the final project inspection. Well done Col and Jo in partnering with South West NRM and the National Landcare Programme to achieve positive environmental outcomes for the Paroo Catchment!



Above: Col Creagh from Varna beside one of the Paroo River waterholes that has benefited from the NLP investment in reducing grazing pressure inside the riverine zone of the Paroo river Catchment.



Above: Col Creagh of Varna and Kevin Collins of South West NRM inspect a mobile transfer pump used to pump water to off-stream troughs to reduce grazing pressure in the Paroo river Catchment.