

## Rehabilitating riparian lands

### 'Toogimbie' Wetland rehabilitation

#### The site

'Toogimbie' Wetland covers an area of 1,000 hectares and is located approximately 45 kilometres west of Hay in the NSW Riverina area. The wetland is highly significant to the cultural, spiritual, social and heritage values of the local indigenous communities, and as such, is part of the 5,000 hectare Indigenous Protected Area, which adjoins the Murrumbidgee River.

**Proponent: Nari Nari Tribal Council, Hay**

**Land use: conservation, wetland reserve**

**Habitat grant: \$4,450**

**In-kind support: \$5,450**

#### The project

Severe weed encroachment of the wetland and dumping of waste motivated the Nari Nari Tribal Council to embark upon a weed eradication and wetland rehabilitation project. The project involved the eradication of weeds using biologically sensitive herbicides and manual removal. In addition, scrap metal and other rubbish was removed from the entire site. Revegetation over a 20 hectare area was undertaken. Innovative revegetation methods using seed balls were trialled at the wetland. When inundated by flood waters the seed balls germinate in-situ.



Intermittently inundated billabong within the 'Toogimbie' Wetland.  
Photo: NNTC

#### The outcomes

The efforts by the Nari Nari Tribal Council and community volunteers have resulted in:

- weed management of 20 hectares of wetland habitat
- 2,800 endemic plants planted, including common reed, lignum, black box and river cooba
- removal of debris from over 1000 hectares of wetland
- development of a water sharing plan for the 'Toogimbie' Wetland, allowing artificial inundation of the wetland to promote 'an ecologically balanced environment'.



Preparation of the site for replanting. Photo: NNTC