$530,000 BOOST FOR SOIL CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Minister for Lands, Tony Kelly, has today approved the allocation of a total of $530,000 funding for seven soil conservation projects in NSW.

They are:

- **$172,000** for the **Warragamba Catchment Protection Scheme**, Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment - to remediate severe land degradation issues to improve and protect the water supply catchments of the Sydney and Blue Mountains regions;

- **$85,000** for the **Riverina Highlands Project**, Murrumbidgee Catchment - for work in three priority hotspot subcatchments of the Adelong, Hillas and Gilmore/Sandy creeks;

- **$85,000** for the **Numeralla East Project**, Murrumbidgee Catchment - to address land degradation issues in the catchment;

- **$60,000** for the **Upper Coxes Creek Project**, Namoi Catchment - to control soil erosion and sedimentation on four key sites, as well as protecting Black Stump Way from damage during flood events;

- **$46,000** for the **Upper Shoalhaven and Kangaroo Valley Project**, Southern Rivers Catchment - to help address major historic land degradation in order to minimise sediment and nutrient delivery to waterways in the catchment;

- **$42,000** for the **Capertee Valley Project**, Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment - to implement on-ground works and management strategies to address land degradation within the valley; and

- **$40,000** for the **Matong Beloka Project**, Southern Rivers Catchment - to reduce the level of sediment leaving the valleys and entering the rivers and creeks leading to the Snowy River.

Mr Kelly said Section 10 soil conservation projects have traditionally been an important part of catchment-based programs aimed at addressing land degradation issues in general and soil conservation in particular.

“These projects address land degradation issues that extend beyond individual property boundaries and have wider community implications, and co-ordinate land management practices and works between adjoining landholders,” the Minister said.

“They also demonstrate techniques that will encourage landholders and the community generally to incorporate soil and water conservation practices into normal land management.

“They aim to rehabilitate degraded land and prevent further degradation through the implementation of catchment works and the adoption of sustainable land management practices.”