

# Influencing Community Response to Climate Change

Melanie Haddow

Biodiversity Projects Coordinator – Climate Change

Understanding Rural Landholder Responses to Climate Change

National Forum

17-18 November 2009

Charles Sturt University, Albury NSW



# Climate Change Strategy

One objective is to assist in building community capacity to respond to climate change challenges and opportunities

- Land stewardship incentive program
- Implementation Committees & Catchment Mgt Networks
- Supporting Climate Change, Sustainability & Landcare Groups
- Partnerships with Dept of Primary Industries and Dept Sustainability & Env

# Challenges

- Methods of engagement with landholders
- Community groups' engagement methods
- Funding for incentive programs
- Political debate
- Government program language
- Potential for adverse NRM & social outcomes from carbon market

# Opportunities

- Communications strategy – reach wider audience
- Support community groups to reach wider audience
- Climate change initiatives beginning to be driven by community development units in local government
- Climate change module for Whole Farm Planning
- Carbon market could assist to accelerate incentive programs

# Conclusion

- Opportunities outweigh challenges
- Many positive actions already occurring which can be utilised in climate change messages
- Capacity of landowners already exists so positive support to take next steps should be focus