

# International Biodiversity Day

## Media Release

In 1993, the United Nations declared the 22nd May International Biodiversity Day as a way of increasing the awareness and understanding of biodiversity issues.

The theme for this year is 'Biodiversity and Agriculture'. Agriculture is a key example of how human activities have a profound impact on the ecosystems of our planet.

In line with the wishes of the ever-increasing proportion of Australians who view the involvement of the corporate sector in the cultivation of cotton in the Murray-Darling catchment as inappropriate, unsustainable and ecologically devastating, Fair Water Use (Australia) is asking those invested in this area to review their involvement, and reinvest in agricultural activities in keeping with the best interests of the Murray-Darling Basin as a whole.

FWUA will shortly be commencing a 'name and shame' campaign directed at groups and institutions invested in these environmentally destructive operations.

FWUA has no argument with true farmers who are battling under very adverse conditions and are fully aware of the need to practice agriculture that is sustainable in the broadest sense. They have our utmost respect.

FWUA is also lobbying all State and Federal Government offices with responsibility for water regulation to amend current legislation which enables the impoundment of a large percentage of the surface water which would otherwise have entered the River Darling and made a significant contribution to the restoration of the ecology of the Murray-Darling system and the welfare of hundreds of downstream communities dependent upon it.