

# The Fantastic Five Friends



Georgina Rutter  
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## Enviro-Stories Education Program

Enviro-Stories is a competition based education program for Primary Schools that was developed by PeeKdesigns.

[www.envirostories.com.au](http://www.envirostories.com.au)



This program provides an education experience for kids through learning about the environment. The final product is a published story written about local issues, by local kids, for local kids and future generations.

In 2010, the Cotton Catchment Communities CRC, in conjunction with the Central West Catchment Management Authority, provided local kids with the opportunity to join in on this exciting and innovative competition.

## Cotton Catchment Communities CRC

The Cotton Catchment Communities CRC is an industry partnership leading research, education and commercialisation in the Australian cotton industry. The Cotton CRC aims to provide innovative knowledge to stimulate economic, social and environmental outcomes at farm, regional and national levels.

[www.cottoncrc.org.au](http://www.cottoncrc.org.au)

## Central West Catchment Management Authority

The Central West Catchment is committed to work with the community to conserve, improve and manage natural and cultural resources. The catchment is located in central western New South Wales, flanked by the Barwon and Darling Catchments to the north and west, Lachlan to the south and the Sydney/Shoalhaven Basin to the east.

[www.cw.cma.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cw.cma.nsw.gov.au)

# The Fantastic Five Friends

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The Cotton Catchment Communities CRC 2010 “Fur & Fins, Feet & Beaks...What can you find at your local creek?” Enviro-Stories Competition consists of the following books:

- A Duck’s Life
- Blue-Bell the Cow
- Collie the Champion Carp
- Giggle Learns to Fly
- Pippy the Platypus
- Stop the Spread
- The Fantastic Five Friends
- Trouble on Wee Waa Lagoon
- Pob’s Great Search

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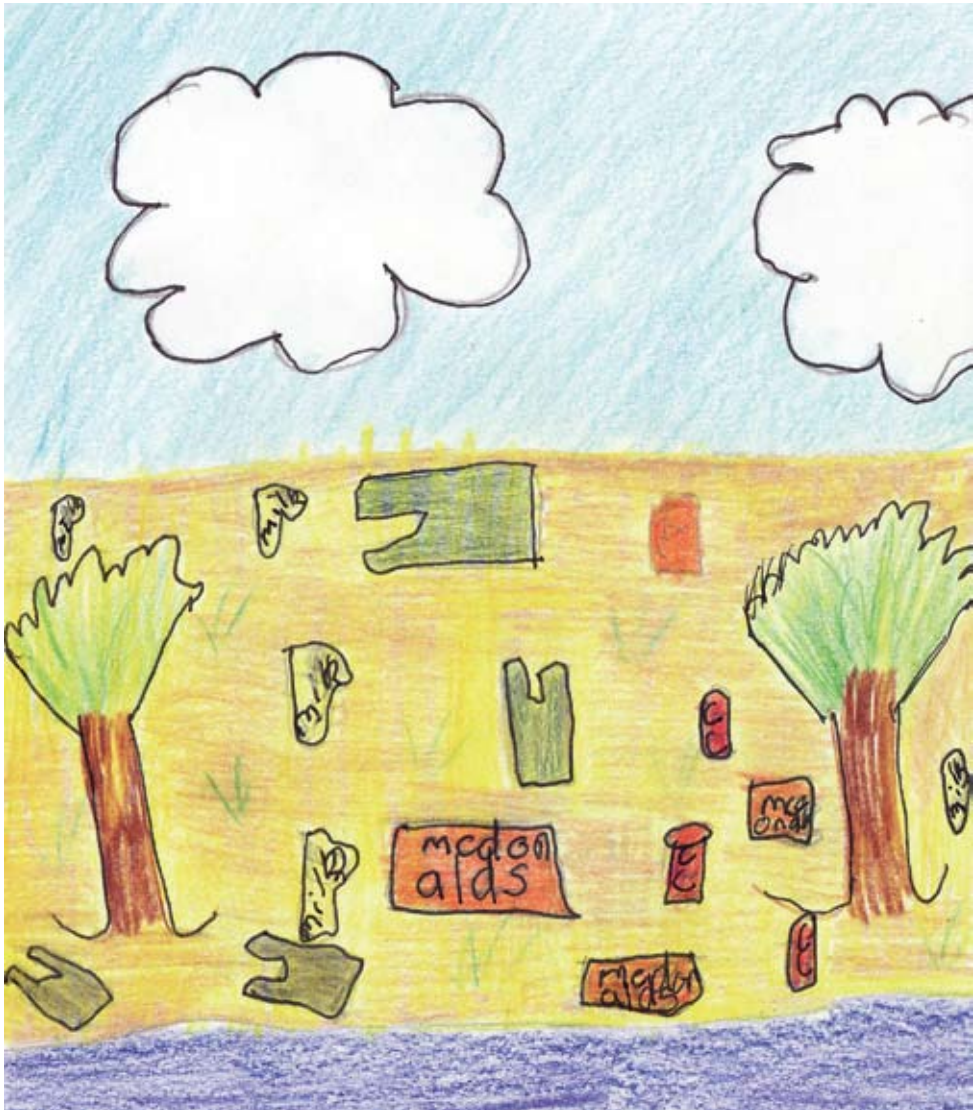
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On a cold wintery day in June, five friends were playing on the calm, shallow, sandy shore of the local creek.

They were Catherine the carp, Murray the cod, Maggie the magpie, Garry the galah and Penny the pelican.





All at once they noticed the pollution scattered throughout the riparian zone. There were food wrappers, drink cans and lots more rubbish just lying around the banks of the creek.


Garry squawked, “Murray, can you please dive down to the sandy creek floor and see if there is any more pollution in the aquatic zone?”

“Sure,” answered Murray.

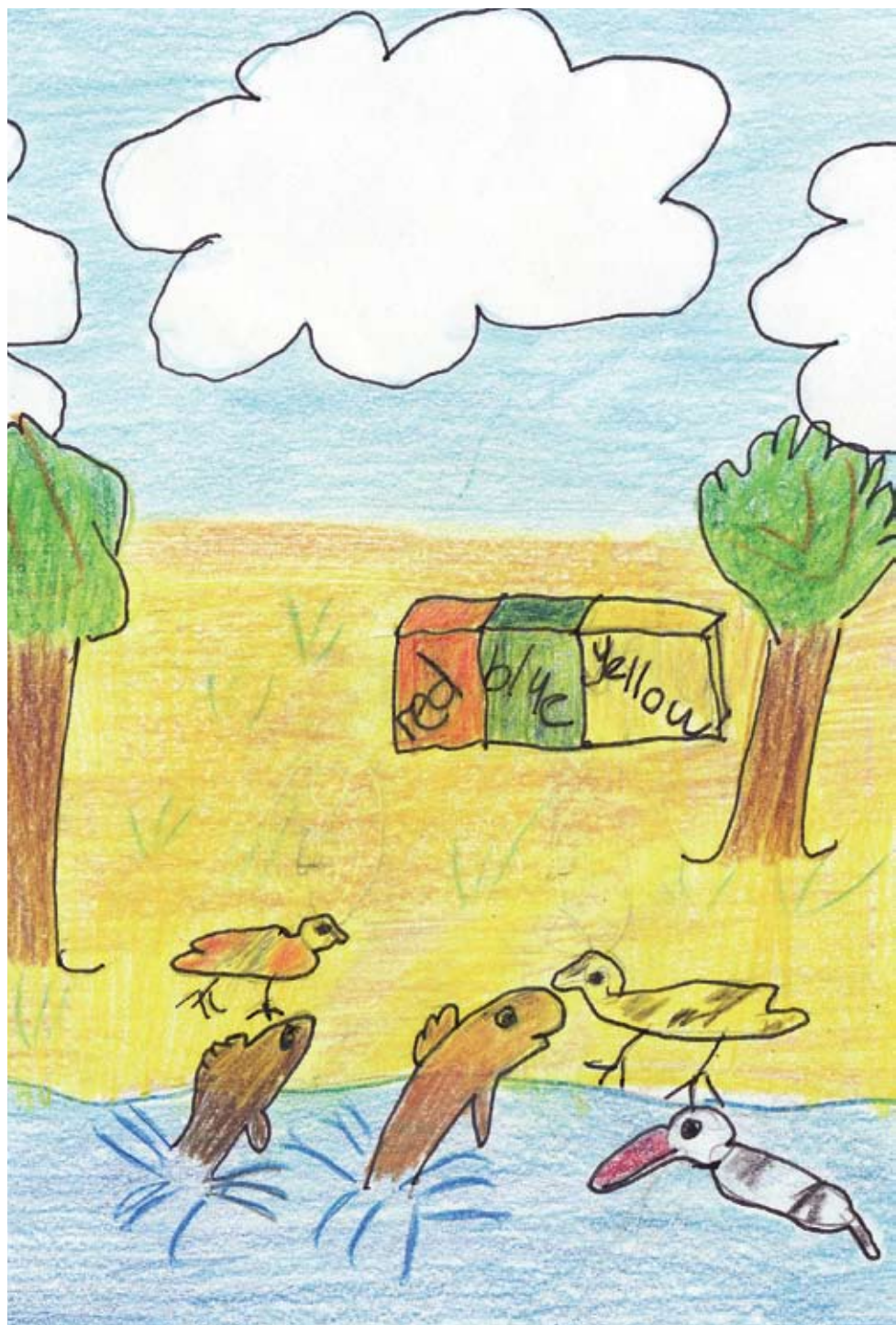
He dived down as deep as he could and exclaimed, “Jumping Jellyfish!”

There was twice the amount of pollution in the creek as on the banks.





Penny yelled, “THAT’S  
GOING TO KILL THE FISH!”



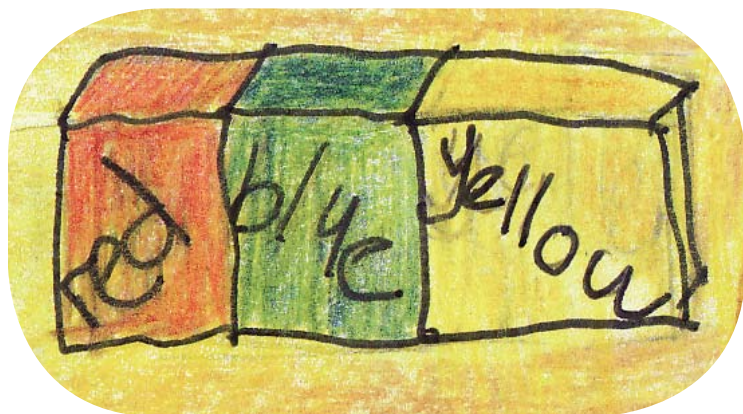


They all started to think of ways to remove the litter from the river bank.

Gary suggested, “Let’s put it in the creek.”

Catherine exclaimed, “That’s just going to continue killing the fish!”

Then Murray gulped, “Let’s put the rubbish in those coloured recycling bins over there.”



“It’s easy,” said Murray. “Blue coloured bins are for your paper and cardboard. Yellow bins are for plastic and glass bottles and containers. In the red bin you put all the other food scraps and rubbish that can’t be recycled.”

“Good idea” Maggie chirped. So they wasted no time and jumped into action.

yellow



container

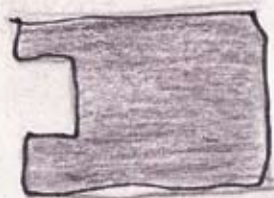
Red:



Blue:



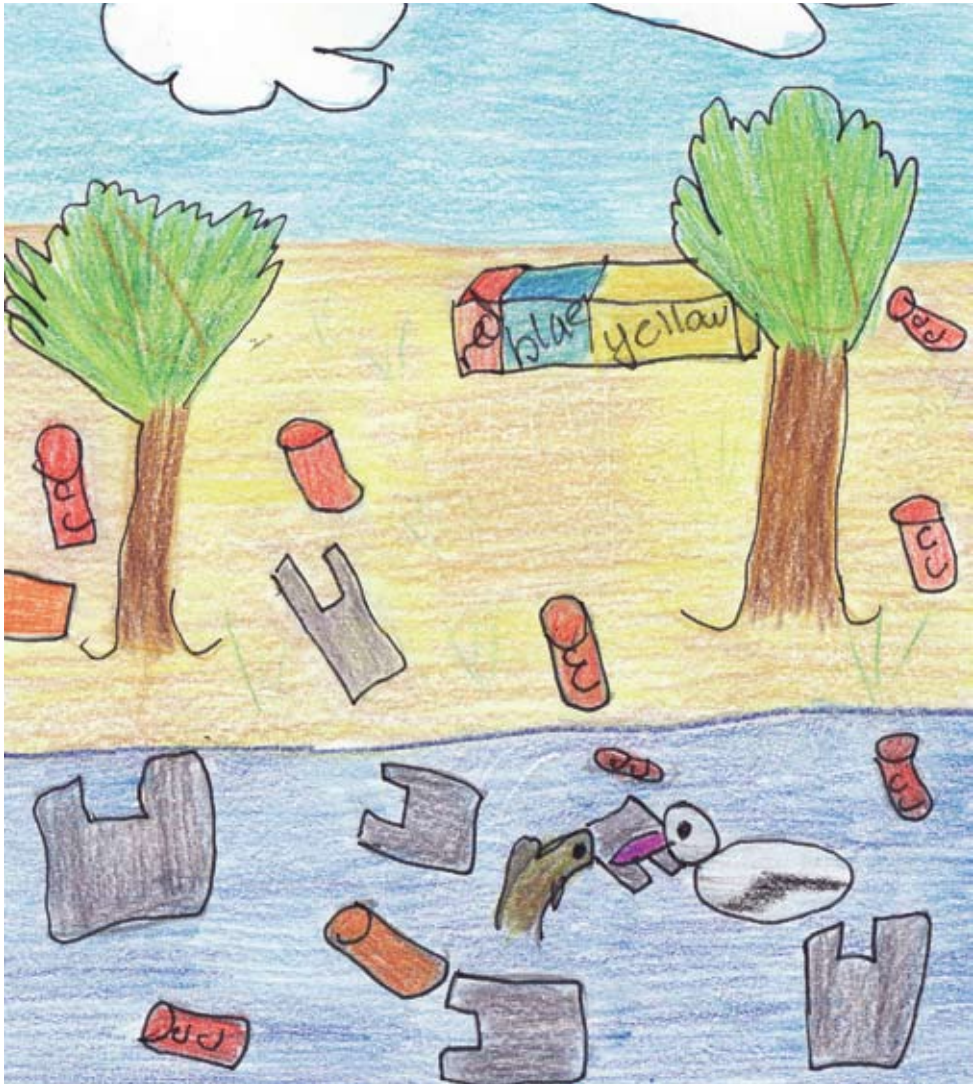
Cardboard





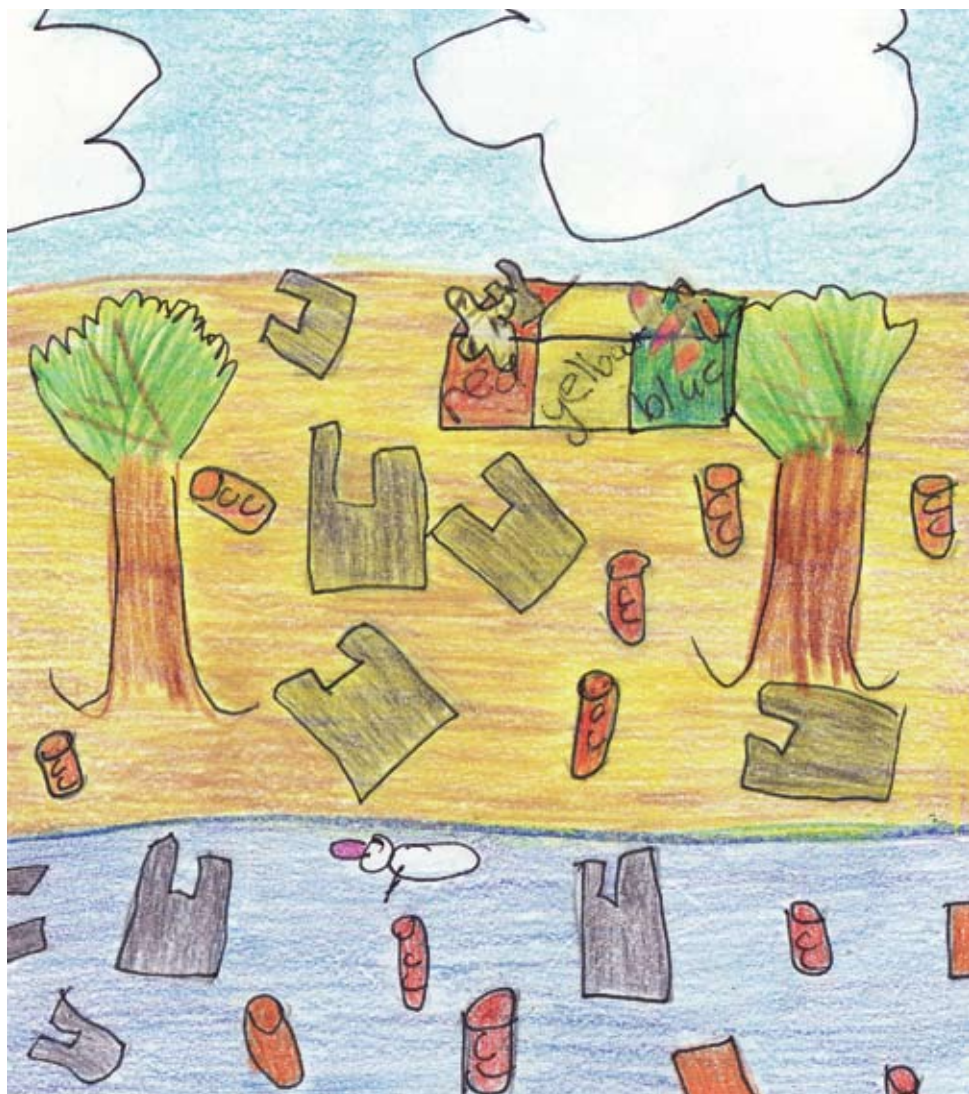
Murray and Catherine dived underwater to collect all the rubbish from the aquatic zone.

As they did this, Maggie and Garry collected the rubbish on the banks, while Penny floated gracefully scooping up the rubbish floating on the water's surface.

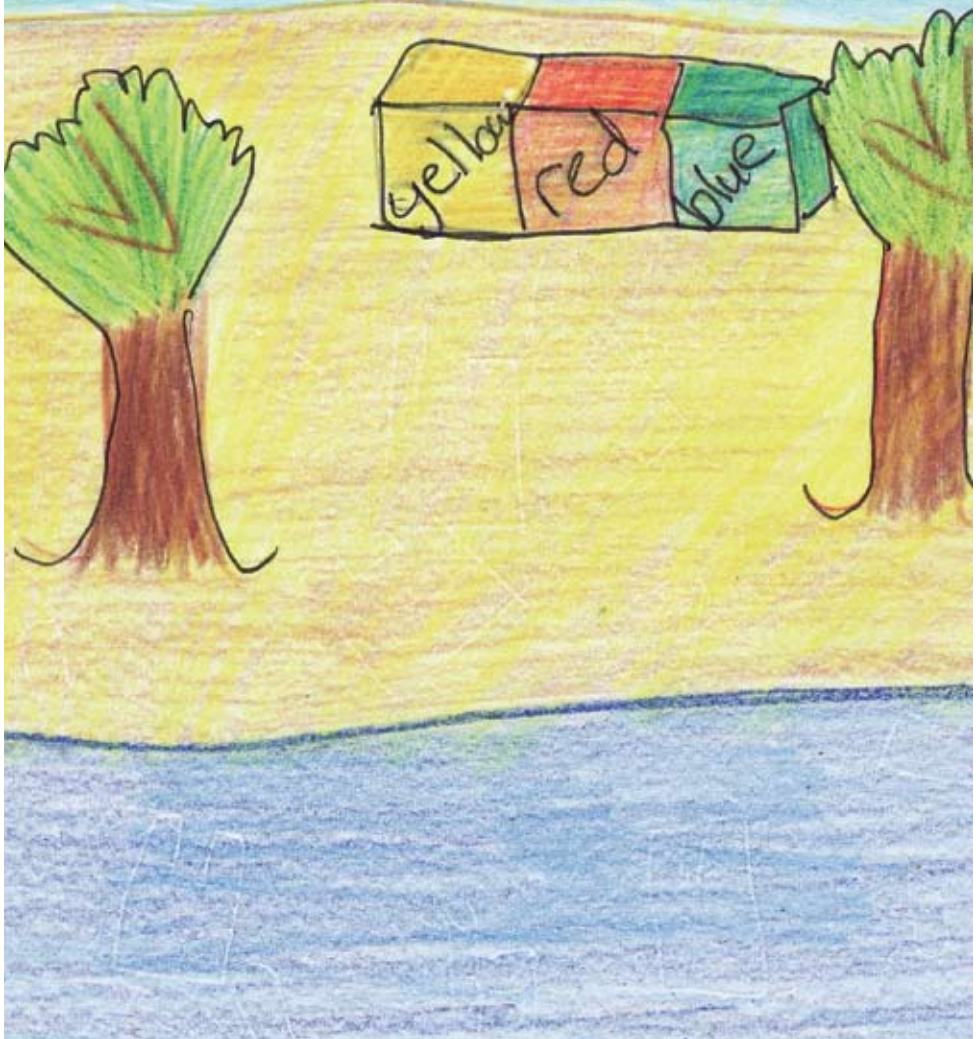


Catherine and Murray passed the rubbish up to Penny who then put it in the correct coloured bins.

Garry and Maggie were able to put the rubbish they collected in the bins themselves.



After a couple of tiring hours of hard work, they had cleaned up both the aquatic and riparian zones.



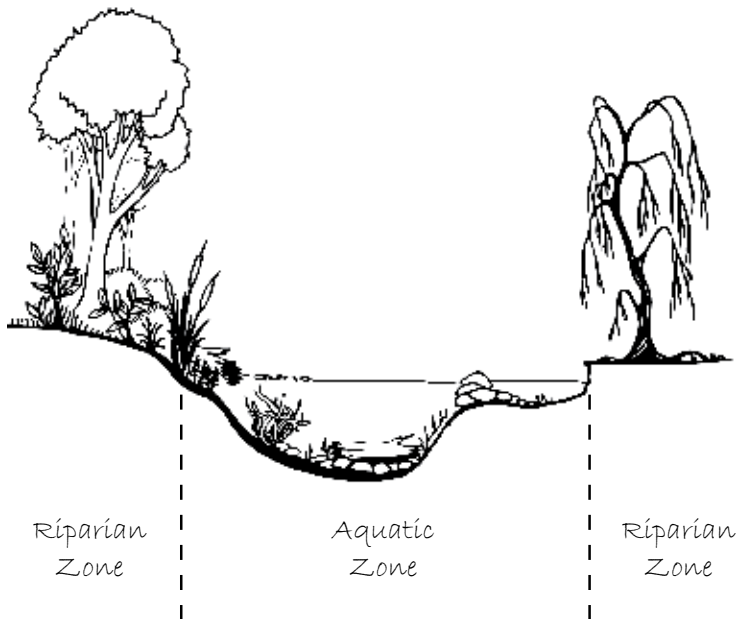




All the fish and insects were so happy there was big applause. They had come to the realisation that it doesn't matter if you're big or small, you can do anything!

## What is a Riparian Zone?

The riparian zone is land that is next to a waterway (such as riverbanks, rivers, creeks, lakes, wetlands). Riparian zones can have a great diversity of animals and plants living in them.



## What is an Aquatic Zone?

The aquatic zone covers all areas that are covered by water on a permanent basis. It is very important habitat for many aquatic species.





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Narrabri Public School, Grade 5 2010



Cotton Catchment Communities CRC



Central West  
catchment  
management authority



Industry &  
Investment