Using Cat tracker in the Riverland
Project background
Cats are one of most popular pets worldwide, providing their owners with enjoyment and companionship, but can also be a nuisance to neighbours and may have a negative impact on native wildlife. The NRM Education program, in partnership with Berri Barmera Local Action Planning and Discovery Circle approached Riverland schools to recruit them in the tracking of their pet cats.
We had 12 schools from across the Riverland registered for the program: Barmera PS, Glossop HS, Monash PS, Our Lady of the River, Riverland Special School, Kingston on Murray PS, Loxton PS, Loxton North PS, Loxton HS (year 12 student doing it for his research project), Renmark HS and Renmark St Jo's.

What it entails
Cat owners were asked to complete a personality test about their furry loved ones. Discovery Circle then sent them a GPS tracker that strapped on the cats collar. The cat was then 'tracked' for a week to see what it got up to when owners weren't watching.

Expected outcomes
General awareness is one of the main outcomes of this project – especially with the owners that denied their cat ever left the backyard! It's also a really good citizen science project for classes to do. After their GPS tracker is returned, the data is uploaded onto the Discovery Circle website for them to view and analyse. We also have a diverse 'location' of schools from the Riverland. We've wanted to make this program encompass the Riverland as a whole – this will provide us with a more diverse area to analyse.

Here are some examples of the data we've collected:
Barmera PS
http://www.discoverycircle.org.au/portfolio/bibi/
http://www.discoverycircle.org.au/portfolio/flossie/

Loxton North PS
http://www.discoverycircle.org.au/portfolio/furry/

Our Lady Of The River – Berri
http://www.discoverycircle.org.au/portfolio/multi/

Riverland Special School – Berri
http://www.discoverycircle.org.au/portfolio/meesha/

For more information contact the NRM Education team in Berri on 8580 1800