



MEDIA RELEASE

1 April 2008

HELPING FARMERS IMPROVE PRODUCTIVITY AND PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

Farmers can use accreditation tools like environmental management systems to access new markets for their produce within Australia and overseas.

These and other messages will be covered by speakers at a forum being convened by the North East Catchment Management Authority and the Australian Landcare Management System Group in Wodonga this **Thursday (3 April)**.

North East CMA Land Stewardship Manager, Mr Chris Reid, said the forum also sought to help the region's farmers take a proactive approach to climate change.

"Many farmers have already started adapting to changed conditions. This forum is another way of equipping our rural community with ideas and information that can help them improve their business productivity and protect the environment into the future."

Agenda

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| 9.00-9.15 | Welcome | Sarah Nicholas , <i>Chair – North East CMA</i> |
| 9.15-9.45 | Landcare Australia-the Carbon SMART programme | Rob Youl , <i>Project Officer Landcare Carbon SMART</i> |
| 9.45-10.30 | Competing in global markets: playing to our strengths | Mick Keogh , <i>Executive Director, Australian Farm Institute</i> |
| 10.30-11.00 | Morning tea | |
| 11.00-11.30 | Positioning Australian agriculture – an Elders perspective | Antonia Karamanidis , <i>National Sponsorship and Promotions Manager Elders Limited</i> |
| 11.30-12.30 | Landholder Panel -Where do we need to go with recognition of land management? | 1. Peter Kirk – beef cattle producer, Tallangatta 2. Jenny Anderson - prime lamb producer, El Dorado 3. Jeff Colson - citrus producer, Glenrowan 4. Kylie Scanlon - beef cattle producer, Tallangatta |
| 12.30 -1.30 | Lunch | |
| 1.30-2.00 | ALMS in five years time | Tony Gleeson , <i>CEO ALMS Group</i> |
| 2.00-2.30 | Why the CMA is supporting EMS | Chris Reid , <i>Manager–Land Stewardship, North East CMA</i> |
| 2.30-3.20 | Plenary discussion What do we need to do to get where we want to go? | |
| 3.20-3.30 | Issues | John Riddiford , <i>CEO North East CMA</i> Jock Douglas , <i>past President of ALMS</i> |
| 3.30 | Afternoon tea | |

For additional information or to arrange an interview please contact,
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