

# Alpine Valleys

agribusiness forum

*Australian Alpine Valleys - Where the Best Grows to Perfection*

## media release & photo opportunity

August 29, 2008

### **Carbon Trading Top Guns Present at Environmental Seminar**

It has been widely recognised and accepted for some time that many of Australia's top companies and carbon emitters will be looking at farmers and rural areas to seek offsets for their regulated carbon footprint through the establishment of a carbon trading system and other 'public-good environmental services'.

The Australian Alpine Valleys Agribusiness Forum, together with the North East Catchment Management Authority, Department of Primary Industries and Plantations North East have recognised the need to bring timely information to the landholders of the region about what impact and opportunities these public-good environmental services could offer them.

The Environmental Service Provision Seminar to be held on Wednesday September 17 in Albury will host some of the world's most foremost authorities on carbon trading and the environment. Leading the expert panel will be Martijn Wilder, Head of Baker & McKenzie's global change and emissions trading practice, and advisor to the Prime Minister on carbon trading. Also heading the panel will be international wetland ecologist, Dr Max Finlayson, who is currently based in Colombo, Sri Lanka working on behalf of the International Water Management Institute.

In the not too distant future, it is believed that there will be a whole raft of entrepreneurs offering environmental services to landholders. Whilst most of the schemes on offer will be genuine, benefiting the landholder, region and environment generally, it is feared that some may also be less scrupulous.

There are a number of environmentally ethical opportunities available to landholders that could mark a whole new way for farmers to manage their land holdings and business with the public concern for environment and climate at the forefront.

The aim of the seminar is to assist participants to understanding how these new politically driven services can benefit not only the individual but also their wider community.

"There are some real incentives that will be on offer in the future for landholders who are well informed on how to better manage the climate change risk by locking part of their properties into arrangements where they will receive payment for service", said Lachlan Campbell, AAVAF Sustainability Manager. "It will potentially offer a number of opportunities to landholders that may include environmental stewardship and plantation timber through MIS schemes. However, nothing is more certain than landholders need to be well informed of opportunities and ensure that decisions are not made in isolation."

To register for this seminar or find out more go to [www.alpvalleys.com.au](http://www.alpvalleys.com.au) or call Rod Grant from the Australian Alpine Valleys Agribusiness Forum on 5721 7594.

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For more information please call Lachlan Campbell on 5721 6088