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# Alpine Valleys

## agribusiness forum

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

## media release & photo opportunity

February 19, 2007

### **Encouraging New Leaders – The Key**

Supporting and encouraging further development of community and business leaders is vital to the revitalisation of the Alpine Valley's region following the cessation of the tobacco industry.

This specific need has been recognised by the Post Tobacco Action Group (PTAG) and the development and implementation of a focussed leadership development program is a key initiative of the group.

Chairman of PTAG Cr Nino Mautone said the planned "Alpine Valleys New Industry Leadership Development program will commence in May 2008 and run for a six month period. Ten to twelve participants selected for their leadership potential will undergo the leadership development program which will address the topic of changing and sustainable land use by observing successful case studies, learning from relevant guest speakers, undertaking farm visits, participating in discussion panels, taking part in a study tour to New Zealand and meeting with key agency and political leaders in Melbourne."

"We have contracted the Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Program in conjunction with the Regional Development Company to develop and manage the program which will play an integral role in re-invigorating our agricultural and small business sector in moving our region forward," said Cr Mautone.

A project steering committee with representatives from TAFCO, Alpine Shire, Rural City of Wangaratta, Alpine Valleys Agribusiness Forum, Regional Development Victoria and the Department of Planning and Community Development are overseeing the project.

Potential participants are encouraged to contact Kerry Murphy at TAFCO on ph (03) 5752 1800 for further information.

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*This media release is authorised by Graham Nickless on behalf of the Post Tobacco Action Group.  
For further information regarding this media release please contact Graham Nickless on 03 5722 0771.*