

Alpine Valleys

agribusiness forum

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

Project Report

AgFutures Omeo Forum - 2009

**Total Project Cost
\$22,400**

Australian Alpine Valleys Agribusiness Forum were engaged by the Department of Primary Industries to run an AgFutures program in the Omeo-Benambra area. In 2009.

The Omeo-Benambra area has been undergoing profound and rapid change. Drought, climate change, global commodities, productivity, cost of production and geographical isolation are impacting on the social well being of the region and therefore it was considered timely to offer the delivery of an AgFutures forum in the region. The program was managed in conjunction with Landcare, DPI, VFF, West Gippsland Shire and the North East and West Gippsland CMA's.

The program was held over two days in July and August 2009, and was attended by 21 farmers/graziers and 7 attendees from government agencies and other disciplines.

The program and facilitation plan was built around the identified needs by the community to know more about climate change, population and demographic changes, global impacts on farming, and new and emerging opportunities for increasing productivity.

The strong line-up of speakers included Dale Gray and Neil Barr both from DPI, Professor Tim Reeves and Dr Geoff Daniels.

The evaluation sheets completed by attendees indicated strong support for the program and new understanding of the issues discussed.