

Alpine Valleys

agribusiness forum

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

Project Report

Drought Services Co-ordinator 2008-09

**Total Project Cost
\$58,839**

The Drought Services Co-ordination Project was built on the successful work of the 2008 Drought Services Co-ordination Project. With the changing role of drought response by agencies, local and state government towards more sustainable farming systems this project:

- provided access to information regarding adaptation to changing agricultural practices and management
- supported the transition phase for current drought support recipients
- prepared for changes to Federal Government Exceptional Services funding
- supported local government drought recovery committees to provide a longer term planning and adaptation role.

and continued to work in partnership with programs such as, DPI AgFutures, Rural Skills Connect and NECMA Drought Employment Program and the Drought Services Co-ordinator contributed regularly to meetings of a number of other agencies.

Events and forums were designed, organised and developed in conjunction with councils, agencies and government departments. Many of the events were delivered to the broader farming community but some were specifically designed for men, women, young farmers and the farm business sector.

The project was delivered across five municipalities of Towong, Wodonga, Indigo, Wangaratta, and Alpine. The project co-ordinator was able to network with other agencies and organisations to deliver a more co-ordinated and targeted response to drought issues in the region.

The building and development of relationships is a key component of this type of project. Longer term funding and contracts are required for improved implementation.

As a result of this project, farming communities, councils and agencies have further recognised the value of partnerships as the approach required to deal with long term issues such as drought and adaptation to change.

The events conducted drew in a large number of land managers and also attracted local Government, and government agencies which allowed the exchange of information, concerns, and direction for all parties. This funding was the catalyst for the provision of external information not readily available for regional stake holders. It was also an opportunity to hear from those with a broad knowledge of national and global trends in the Agricultural sector to inform our communities and generate discussions.

The forums and events conducted by AAVAF focussed on decision making, change management and use of shared knowledge. This has increased the awareness of these issues and the resources available.