



# Alpine Valleys

## agribusiness forum

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

June 2010

### North East Dairy Industry Planning for Change

The Australian Alpine Valleys Agribusiness Forum in conjunction with The Rural City of Wangaratta and the Shires of Alpine, Towong and Indigo have been successful in securing \$20,000 from the State Government to investigate the viability of further expanding the dairy industry production in Upper North East Victoria and develop plans to stabilise and expand the industry based on a viability assessment.

The project will be undertaken in two parts with both including the involvement of local dairy producers and a major manufacture.

Part one of the project will involve the investigation and preparation of a social, environmental and economic evaluation on the viability of the dairy industry spreading its foot print to incorporate to the upper catchments of North East Victoria, to provide a state-wide industry development opportunity and spreading the environmental risk of locating the industry in a larger area of the region. This evaluation would use current income and expenditure figures to determine whether the upper catchments of North East Victoria are both suitable and competitive for accelerated growth.

Part two of the project will be to write up a number of case studies on Dairying in North East Victoria looking at the social, economic and environmental benefits of dairying in the region and how it can complement the state wide dairy industry. These would then form part of the Dairy Australia information and marketing package for dairy investors considering the region. The marketing and communications of the findings would be the important final step in the project.

The full report can be viewed or downloaded from [www.alpvalleys.com.au](http://www.alpvalleys.com.au)