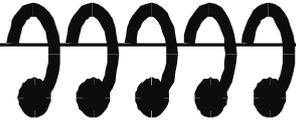


LAND TALK

CLMA Newsletter



AGM

CLMA Annual
General Meeting
at
CLMA
Elders office
Friday 6th
December
5 pm

*All pastoral families
welcome.*

*Light refreshments
afterwards.*

True story

*A firm in Switzerland is
painting advertisements
on the sides of cows!!*



at CLMA Elders Office

2002

Environmental Management Systems (EMS)

CLMA apply for Pilot Program funding

The federal government wants to test the potential for EMS (Environmental Management Systems) from a cross-section of agricultural industries across Australia. To do this they will fund 15 "pilot programs" Australia-wide.

About 10 local cattle stations have said they would like to produce an EMS for their property. So CLMA have submitted an "Expression of interest" to Agriculture Fisheries & Forestry Australia for funding to try EMS here.

EMS is being promoted by the government as a way for businesses to identify and manage their impact on the environment and to help production become more efficient. There are several levels of EMS, from very basic up to being fully accredited to international standard. Producers choose the level they want.

Timetable

- 14th November 2002 – Submit Expression of Interest (DONE). If approved then -

- 30th January 2003 – Submit full application.
- End of April 2003 – start project. Run for 3 years.

EMS

National background

Why EMS?

Since the end of the Decade of Landcare (1990-1999), governments have sought new approaches to 'landcare'. Good management of natural resources is critical to the long-term economic and environmental health of primary production and regional prosperity. Instead of regulation, governments would prefer to build partnerships with landholders and industry groups for a positive future.

Consumers in some parts of the world are demanding more evidence that their food is safe and comes from a well managed enterprise. So there is growing interest to provide an internationally recognised way of safeguarding trade and ensuring sustainable production. An EMS is designed to help prepare landholders to meet future challenges, whether imposed by governments through regulation, by consumers through market preference, or by residents

concerned about their local environment.

What is EMS?

EMS is a broad term used to describe a systematic approach used by an enterprise or organisation to manage its impacts on the environment. The system identifies environmental impacts and legal responsibilities, then implements and reviews improvements.

An EMS is a management tool that helps achieve continuous achievement through a 'plan, do, check, act' cycle. It can be easily integrated with other existing activities such as quality assurance schemes.

Doing an EMS

Step 1: Identify significant impacts on the environment.

Step 2: Assess the importance of those impacts and establish your priorities for action.

Step 3: Swing into action, carrying out what you have judged to be the most important changes needed to improve environmental management on the property.

Step 4: Record your actions. Records provide evidence of your progress over time. If you chose to go all the way, for a fee you could have your EMS

independently audited and accredited to the international standard ISO 14001.

pollution are blamed for the accelerated loss of biodiversity.

You can expect to hear more about biodiversity monitoring over the next few years.

The 'B' word. Biodiversity *What is it?*

Biodiversity is a fairly new word and it's not in most dictionaries. So it's not surprising that a lot of people don't know what it means.

What is biodiversity?

Biodiversity is the web of life – the variety of all living things on earth. It includes humans, animals, plants, insects, invertebrates, fungi and microbes.

Why is it important?

Biodiversity helps to keep soils healthy (eg. breakdown and cycling of nutrients, binding of soil particles to reduce erosion), air clean (eg. oxygen from trees) and water drinkable.

Why worry?

The variety of life on earth is being lost. An estimated 70,000 species a year become extinct worldwide. Australia is no exception. Ongoing losses at this rate threaten human health, the economy and all remaining life on earth.

Human activities such as clearing, spreading of pest plants and animals, and

Biodiversity monitoring *Implications for pastoral lands*

CSIRO workshop

CSIRO in Alice Springs hosted a 'Biodiversity monitoring' workshop in October. About 35 researchers, planners and policy makers from across Australia attended. The workshop aimed to try and find a short-cut method of monitoring the health of arid Australia in terms of measuring biodiversity. This is a difficult task and may have to rely on identifying - 'indicator species' which can be used to indicate overall biodiversity; or 'impacts on biodiversity' such as foxes, cats, rabbits etc.

National framework

Environment Australia in Canberra is committed to developing a national model for biodiversity monitoring by 2005. Presumably, this will lead to on-ground and satellite monitoring of inland Australia, including pastoral lands.



Lake Eyre Basin *NT asked to join Basin management plan*

The Northern Territory and NSW governments have been invited to become signatories to the Lake Eyre Basin Agreement by the existing signatories – the Commonwealth, Queensland and South Australia.

The invitation came from the federal Minister for the Environment & Heritage, David Kemp at a meeting held at Birdsville in late October. The Lake Eyre Basin Agreement is a commitment from various governments to work with the community to help protect the environment and ensure sustainable production.

The Minister for Central Australia, Peter Toyne says Cabinet will have to decide if the NT Government wants to join a multi-jurisdiction agreement on the management of the Lake Eyre Basin. Peter Toyne said there are a number of ways the Territory could contribute which would not

involve becoming a signatory.

land management planning.



Up-date on Finke Bioregion Conservation Strategy

As many members of CLMA will know, the Biodiversity section of the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment (DIPE) (formerly part of the Parks and Wildlife Commission), has been undertaking an NHT funded project to develop a conservation strategy for the Finke Bioregion. The project began in June 2000 and has involved a considerable amount of fieldwork in the Northern Territory portion of the bioregion which was previously one of the Territory's least known biologically. This fieldwork included:

- a systematic survey of plants and animals across all major environments of the bioregion;
- targeted surveys of specific habitats; and
- the development of several spatial coverages which will aid in conservation and

A report describing outcomes from the project is now in preparation and is expected to be completed by March 2003 following consultation and

comment from landholders and other stakeholders. We hope to have a draft copy mailed out to landholders in the Finke Bioregion early in the New Year – when this happens, we'd really appreciate receiving any comments you may have. We are also available to talk about the project with you at any time.

Thank you to all landholders involved in the project and we look forward to your comments on the final report. At the end of the project, we anticipate distributing the final report to landholders on a CD which will also link to specific information about the wildlife and conservation values on your individual properties. If you have any other suggestions on how best to get information back out to you please don't hesitate to contact us. We hope you will find the report of use to you in the future.

Merry Christmas to you all.

Helen Neave
(Biodiversity, DIPE –
Phone 89518227)

CLMA Contact

PO Box 2534

Alice Springs NT 0871

Phone: 8953 4230

Fax: 8952 3824

Email: clma@octa4.net.au

CLMA wishes everyone a "Happy Healthy Christmas"



The most popular local Christmas Carol at the moment seems to be:

Give me rest

"Last week was fire
This week it's wet
I'm not quite ready
for next week yet"

Other favourites include:

- *I'm Dreaming of a Green Christmas*
 - *Hark the Bushfires Council Sing*
 - *Rudolph the sunburnt Brahman*, and
 - *Six burnt boomers*
-

CLMA - proud winners of:

- 1998 *"Alcoa of Australia National Landcare Community Group"*

Award”



- *2000 national “BHP Landcare Research Award”*

