

## **Summary of EMS workshop and BestFarms EMS training package**

MNCFE member turnout was high at the recent Northern Rivers CMA funded BestFarms EMS workshop held at Nambucca Heads (June 2008). The two day workshop used environmental farm planning tools prepared by the Blackwood Basin Group of Western Australia.

A farm environmental management system (EMS) is a practical farm plan to help manage environmental issues and to systematically improve the environmental health of the property. The workshop led participants through a process of identifying their environmental impacts; prioritising these impacts; setting realistic objectives and targets for the responses to these impacts; considering the possible responses and documenting the actual responses to be undertaken. These proposed responses to the environmental impacts are then the basis of the action plan. The action plan also documents who is responsible for the actions and when they will be completed.

The BestFarms package includes a descriptive Guidebook and a detailed Workbook with plenty of example responses to enable easy production of your own farm environmental management system and action plan.

Farm owners found the time away from the farm to consider their environmental impacts and prioritise responses was valuable.

For those who want further information contact Marc Carter on 6627 0126 or e-mail [marc.carter@cma.nsw.gov.au](mailto:marc.carter@cma.nsw.gov.au) the BestFarms website is [www.bestfarms.com.au](http://www.bestfarms.com.au).

Terry Bates

Manager, MNCFE