

Australian Land Management Group

Tony Gleeson, ALM Group
CEO
07 4666 4112
0402099884
tonygleeson@alms.org.au

Julia Telford, ALM Group
Membership Director
0427 580 399
julia.telford@almg.org.au

Anne Currey, ALM Group
Communications Director
041 4878175
anne.currey@almg.org.au

Capturing the benefits from improving environmental outcomes

Quick facts

- ALM Certification System requires continuous improvement and operates whole of farm and across land use types
- Improves land based environmental outcomes from public and private land
- Improves the self esteem and wellbeing of landholders
- Partners provide support and add to the credibility of the system

The Australian Land Management Group (ALM Group) recognises that the practical way to help land managers improve environmental outcomes is for them and their support organisations to be recognised and rewarded for their efforts and achievements.

The ALM Group's Australian Land Management Certification System (ALMCS) enables landholders to develop an internationally recognised land management system for the whole property. This is why landholders across four states in Australia, including major agricultural corporations like TV Fairfax Pastoral and Clyde Agriculture are adopting ALMCS.

ALMCS is Australia's only national, whole-of-farm, catchment-linked and externally audited land management system that complies with internationally recognised management standards.

ALMCS –DEVELOPED BY LANDHOLDERS FOR LANDHOLDERS

The ALMCS is managed and supported by the not-for-profit Australian Land Management Group (ALM Group) which was established by landholders in 2003.

Leading landholders developed and tested ALMCS over a 3-year period. These people drew extensively on inputs from ecologists, behavioural scientists, agribusiness analysts, policy analysts, system analysts, program managers and software developers to refine the system they now support.

PARTNERS – AN ALMCS STRENGTH

Elders Australia is a long time supporter of ALMCS.

This year, in an Australian first, a major Japanese textile corporation, Onward Kashiya, has provided financial support for the further development and implementation of the ALMCS. Domestic wool marketers have indicated price support for woolgrowers implementing the ALMCS.

The number of regional NRM partners is growing.

The ALMCS training workshops are supported by the Australian Government Farm Ready program (www.farmready.gov.au), Australian Wool Innovation Ltd (Marketing) supports ALMCS, and the ALM Group recently has had constructive discussions with the National Farmers Federation, Meat & Livestock Australia and with the Horticultural Freshcare Program.

There is a continuing global focus on environmental performance, heightened by concerns about climate change. This is leading to increased acceptance of the need for credible verification of improving environmental performance particularly for export dependent industries like agriculture.

WHY ALMCS?

- *It credibly requires improved environmental outcomes.* ALMCS complies with internationally-accepted management standards. It requires compliance with environmental legislation, catchment priorities and strategies, continuous improvement in support for biodiversity conservation and improvement in other priority areas identified by landholders. It is externally audited.
- *It operates whole-of-farm and across land use types.* This makes sense - because two thirds of Australian farms are multi-industry and one third of Australia is not used for agricultural activities.
- *It is ecologically sound.* ALMCS deals with the impacts of land managers on the natural resources in an integrated way. It ensures account is taken of the important interactions between soil, water, vegetation, biodiversity and the land manager.
- *It builds capacity.* ALMCS gives landholders the tools and skills to deal with their individual situations and the general issues of soil health, vegetation, biodiversity, water and climate change.
- *It is cost effective and user-friendly.* ALMCS is based on using accredited trainers, group learning opportunities and customised web based software that enables easy access to general and industry specific information. This saves time, avoids paperwork and reduces recording and auditing costs.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- Improved land-based environmental outcomes from private and public lands
- Credible support for the green claims of the agricultural sector
- Improved differentiation, branding and marketing of food and fibre products and hence the profitability of Australian farmers
- Improved effectiveness and efficiency of publicly funded natural resource management programs
- Improved self-esteem and wellbeing of landholders

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Lead by accredited ALMCS trainers, landholders complete a 2-day workshop using *myEMS* software developed specifically by ALM Group. In this workshop, landholders develop an ALMCS plan to guide their activities and improve environmental outcomes. Accredited ALMCS auditors audit the plan to ensure that it is being adhered to. Each year, landholders attend an implementation workshop to check that their plans are on track.