

2005 Tumut Softwood Project

Australian Forestry Management Pty Limited (AFM)



Forests NSW Annual Report

Financial Year 2008-2009

Legal Context

This annual report has been prepared in accordance with Schedule 1 Part 3(h) of the Forestry Management Contract between Australian Forestry Management Pty Limited and the Forestry Commission of New South Wales (Forests NSW) for the 2005 Softwood Project.

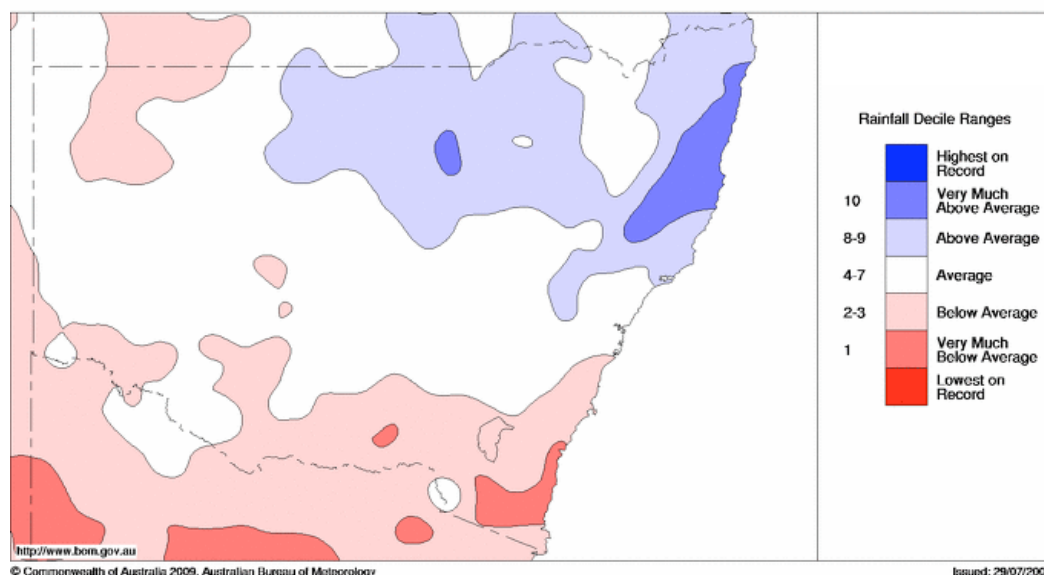
Overview

The 2005 Softwood Project comprises seven 2006 age class plantations blocks. The location of the blocks is shown at Annexure A. All of the plantation blocks are located within the Hume Region near Tumut or Tumbarumba with the exception of Mingary Vale, which is located within Macquarie Region near Oberon. Detailed forestry right interest maps are provided at Annexure B.

Average rainfall for the year was again below average in the Hume Region (refer Figure 1 and Annexure C) with drier periods in early spring and late summer affecting the survival of restocked areas, particularly at Parkers and Ruby Creek.

In Macquarie Region the annual rainfall was just below average but quite variable on a month to month basis (refer Annexure C).

Figure 1: NSW Rainfall deciles 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009



The condition of the plantations is generally good with the exception of the Parkers and Ruby Creek plantation which have ongoing issues with low stocking. The need for ongoing pest control remains with some localised damage incurred in the majority of plantations.

The main activity undertaken during the year was replanting of understocked areas at Parkers and The Valley. Some further restocking of small patches is recommended in Winter 2010.

Detailed area mapping of the seven plantations was completed during the reporting period and is summarised in Figure 2.

Figure 2: 2005 Softwood Project Plantation Areas

Plantation Block (2006 age class)	Plantation Forestry Right Interest Area (FRI) (ha)	Plantation Area not within the FRI Area (ha)	Total Plantation Area (ha)
Maragle Park	193.3	8.9	202.2
Paddys River	182.2	5.6	187.8
Parkers	209.5	9.6	219.1
Ruby Ck	131.4	1.7	133.1
The Valley (1 to 5)	210	6.5	225.5
Mingary Vale *	163.6	4.9	168.5
Vans	81	0.05	81.05
Totals	1171	37.25	1208.25

* Macquarie Region

Stand Condition

The plantations are generally in good condition considering the prevailing ‘below average’ rainfall in the Hume. Exceptions to this exist in sections of the Parkers and Ruby Creek plantations, as detailed:

Maragle Park

Satisfactory stocking, very good condition and growth.

Maragle Park 2006 AC – stand condition and growth winter 2009



Paddys River

Satisfactory stocking but below average growth – localised woody weed control required.

Paddy's River 2006 AC – stand condition and growth winter 2009



Parkers

Variable condition and growth. Stocking is unsatisfactory in approximately 20% of the plantation, including some areas that are unstocked. Some localised areas of wind damage, resulting in some leaning trees and isolated toppling in exposed locations – see photo below.

Parkers 2006 AC – wind damage causing leaning trees



Ruby Creek

Stocking is mostly adequate but variable, estimated to range from 600 to 800 stems per hectare. Trees replanted in 2007 are growing very slowly and appear to be affected by the periodic drought conditions and the cold temperatures experienced at this site.

There are some areas estimated to be about 20 ha in extent where stocking levels are not acceptable. These areas are rocky and/or have been subject to very heavy bracken competition, which was not practical to control post establishment.

The Valley

The Valley property is mostly reasonably well stocked and has acceptable tree growth. Where significant replanting has occurred in 2007 and 2008, the trees are small but developing vigour.

There are localised areas surrounding drainage lines which are unstocked due to frost killing the trees. Additionally there is an area of about 5 ha in Cpt 2007 where ongoing browse damage has reduced stocking to below acceptable levels.

The Basin Area of the Valley Section, which received an additional herbicide treatment in late May 2008 to control competing grasses, has improved in condition with reasonable tree now evident, which has reduced frost damage during this winter. No further action is currently recommended for this area.

Mingary Vale (Transgrid)

The stand is in generally good condition. There are some sections performing poorly as a result of competition with bracken and acacia as well isolated areas of heavy grazing by kangaroos and wallabies. Stand condition will be monitored throughout the year and appropriate management undertaken.

Mingary Vale 2006 AC – Good growth and vigour



Mingary Vale 2006 AC – Bracken Infestation – pine successfully outcompeting weeds



Vans

Good condition and growth and acceptable stocking.

Van's 2006 AC – stand condition and growth July 2009



Pest and Disease Information

Feral pig trapping continued during the report period on properties where pig populations were present. Pest damage was noted during the report period in the majority of plantations, including some stem damage caused by rabbits, wallabies, wild deer straying livestock and brumbies, excluding Parker's where native animal damage occurred on smaller replant trees. Considerable effort was put into removing

straying livestock from the plantation during the year. Deer hunting by selected members of the Australian Deer Association has been authorised on properties where deer populations are likely to cause excessive tree damage.

Activities undertaken

About 143 ha was treated again in August 2008 with replants to ensure an appropriate stocking was achieved. This occurred in the Parkers and Valley sections within Hume Region. Other areas that have been impacted by drought were not replanted as advised by AFM, due to the unavailability of funding from growers.

Additional activities completed during 2008/09 included;

- Placement of road name signs
- Monitoring of replant survival
- Pest animal control
- Maintenance of tracks and access roads
- Fire risk reduction works and surveillance

Fire Incidents

There were no fire incidents within or in close proximity to the plantations. A fire at Wee Jasper in March 2009 had the potential to threaten the Parker's plantation (approximately 5 km away). FNSW supported the Rural Fire Service in rapidly suppressing this fire with personnel, fire tankers, earthmoving equipment and aircraft.

Activities Planned for 2009/2010

- Restocking at Parkers and The Valley in August –September 2009
- Additional spot herbicide where required
- Pest animal control
- Maintenance of tracks and access roads
- Fire risk reduction works and surveillance
- Introduction of grazing where it is assessed that there will be minimal tree damage.
- Supplementary spot weed control on trees replanted in 2008 in Parkers.
- Restocking at Parkers and The Valley of localised understocked areas in Winter 2010 with a preceding animal control program. Note, these are areas that have not been subject to previous restocking.

Other Management Issues

The affects of drought and animal pests has resulted in some plantation areas being restocked twice. This has lead to a range of age classes and variable stocking densities. It is anticipated that this variability will have some impact on future productivity (timber yield) of these areas. The extent of this impact will not be quantifiable until 2016 when the age 10 inventory is undertaken.

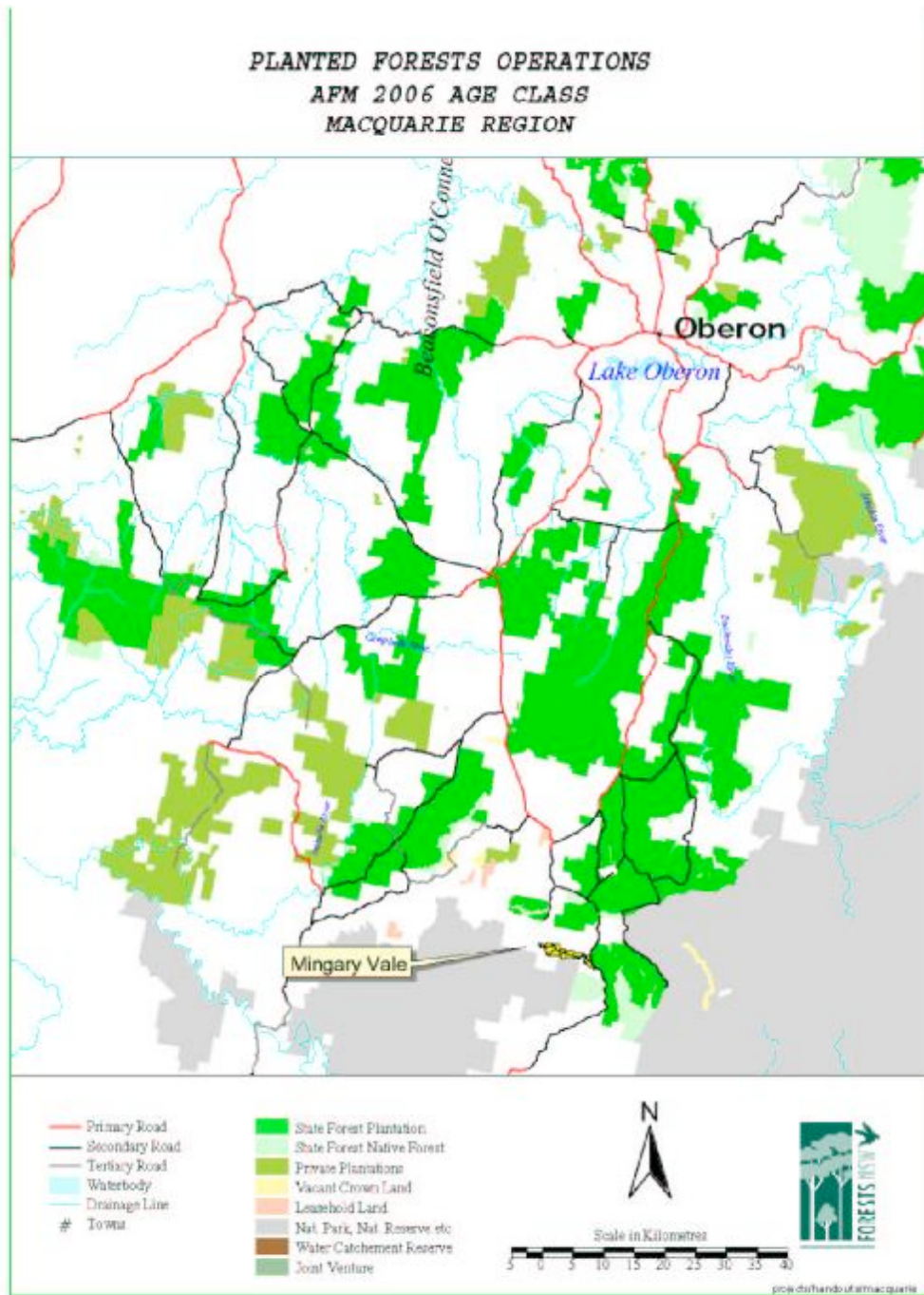
This report has been prepared with the assistance of the Operations & Protection Manager, Macquarie Region.

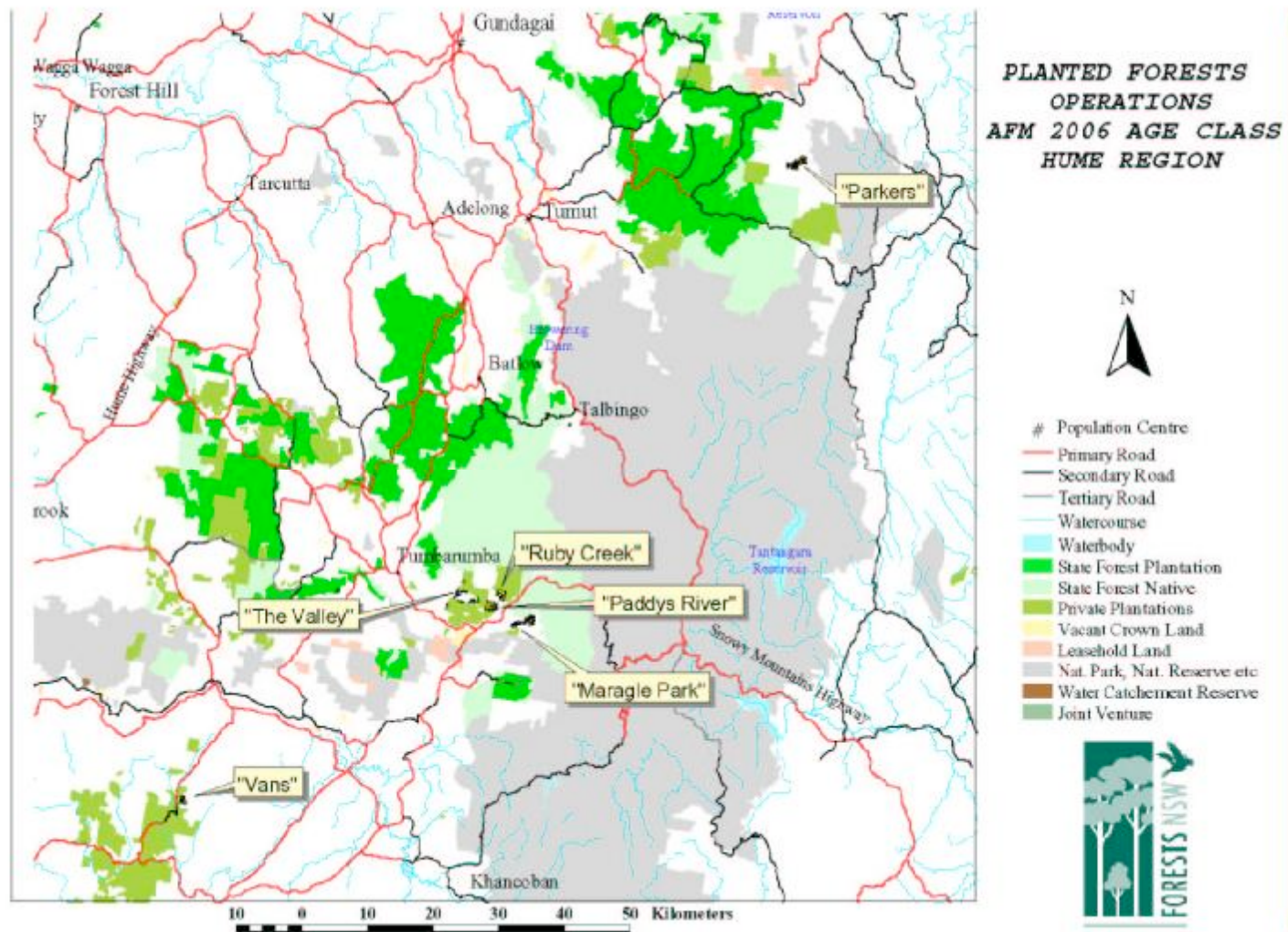
Forests NSW Report Prepared by

Charlie Taylor
Operations and Protection Manager
Hume Region

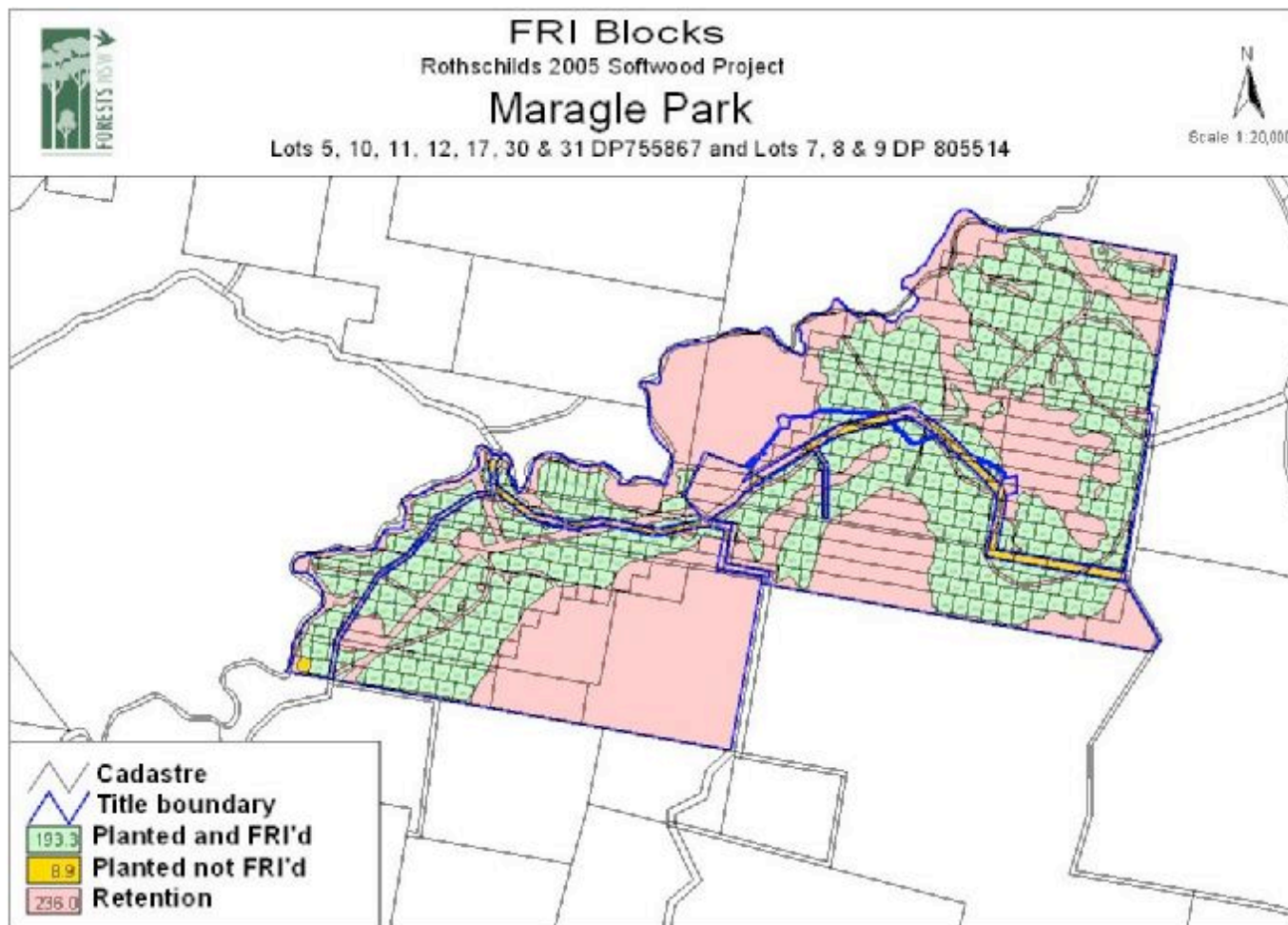
Craig Tribolet
Operations & Protection Manager
Macquarie Region

Plantation Locality Maps



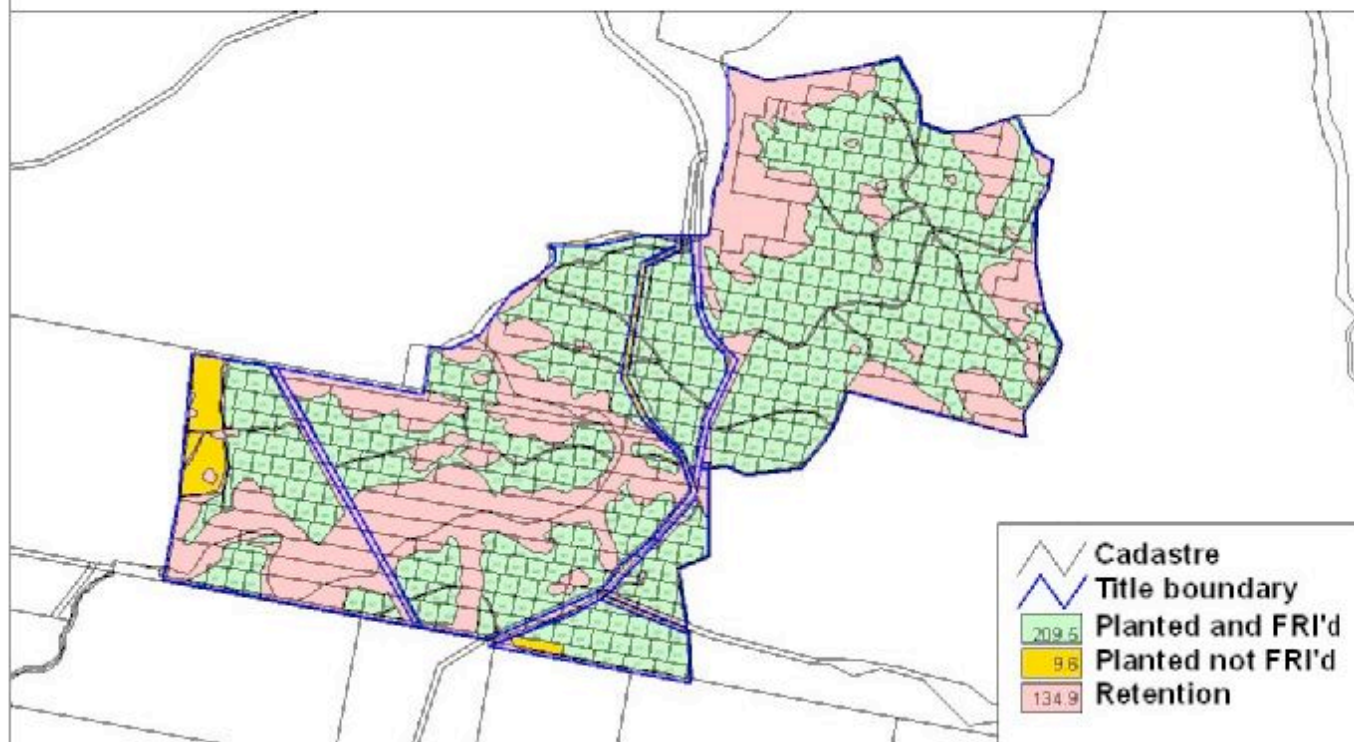


Annexure B





FRI Blocks
Rothschilds 30th June 2005 Softwood Project
Parkers
Lot 122 DP1131690



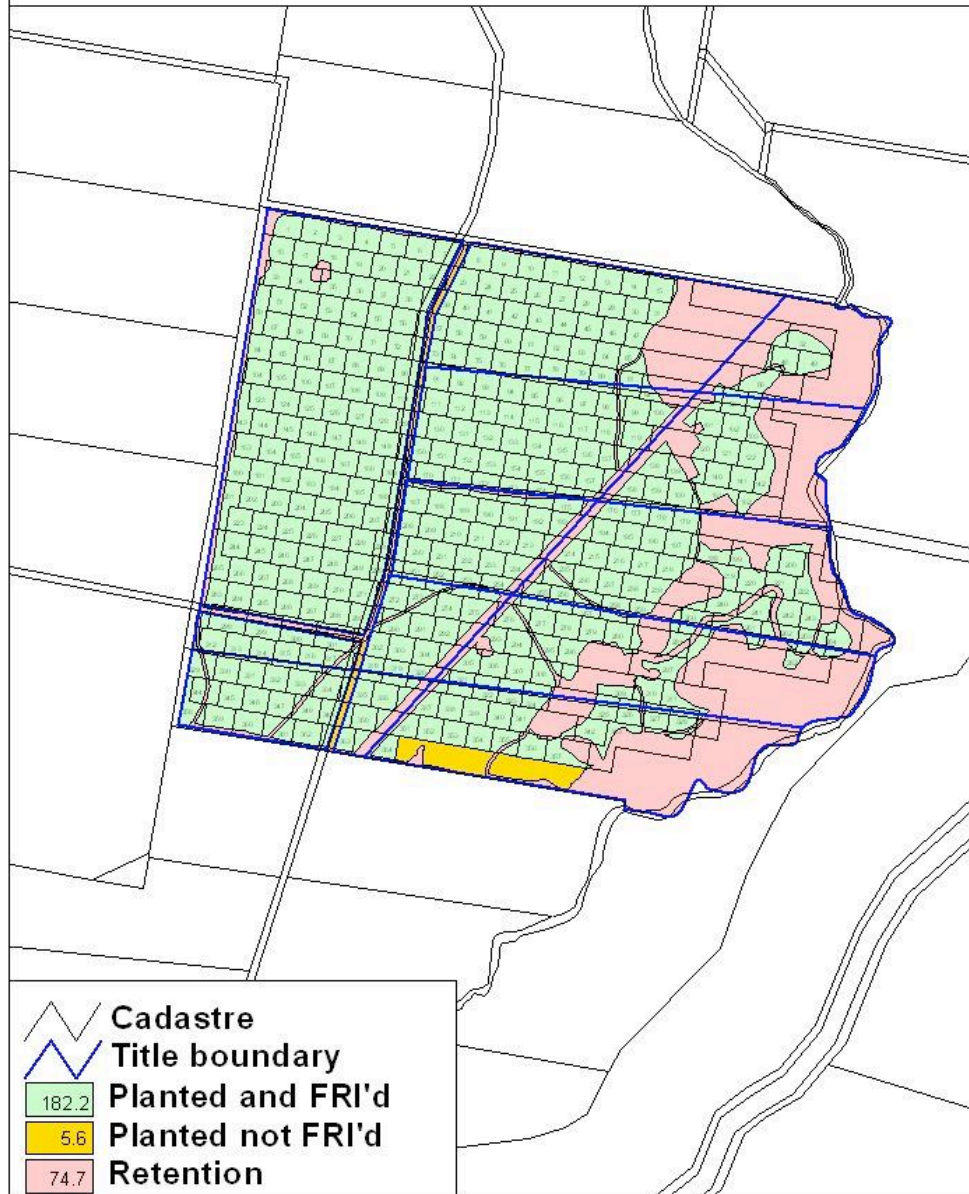
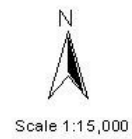


FRI Blocks

Rothschilds 2005 Softwood Project

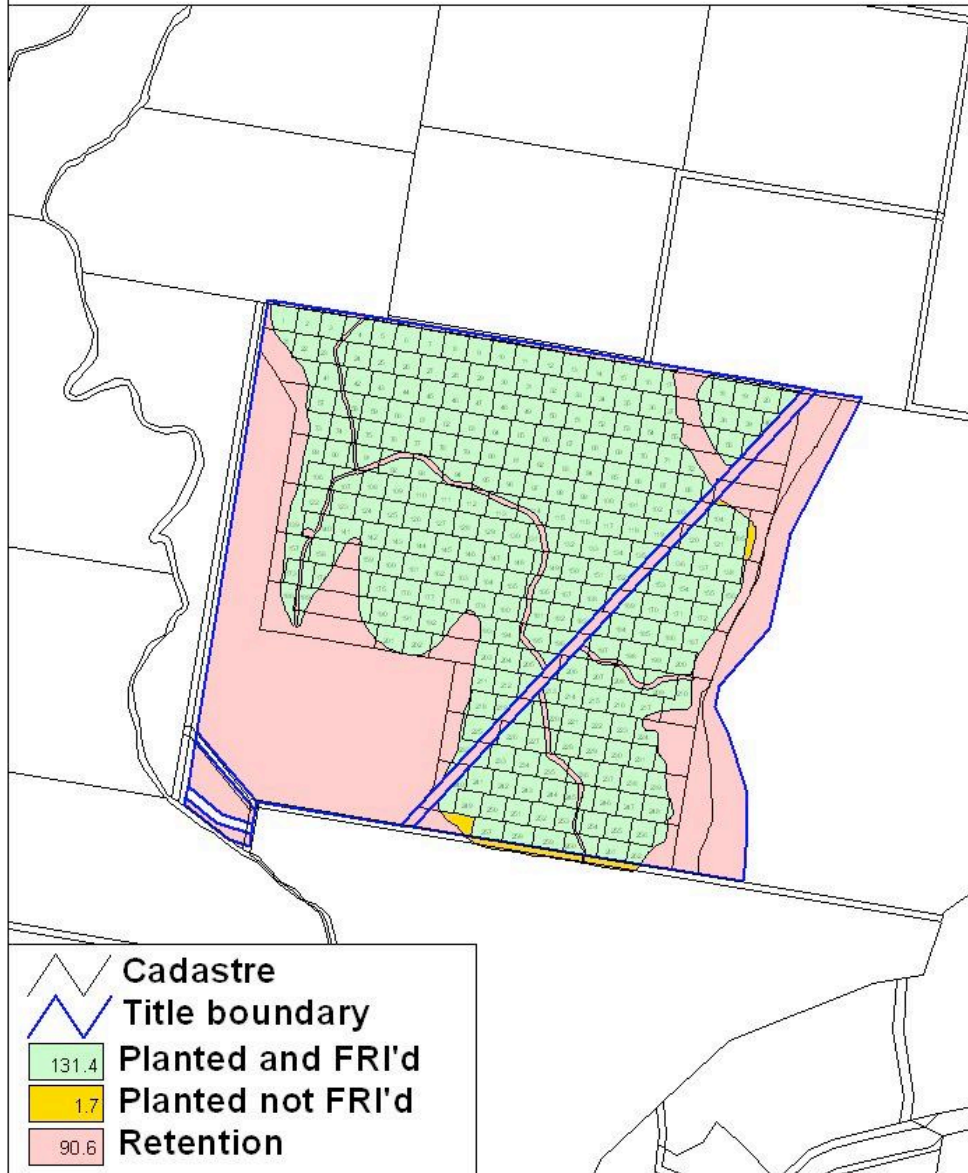
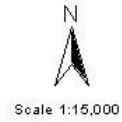
Paddys River

Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 DP255978





FRI Blocks
Rothschilds 2005 Softwood Project
Ruby Creek
Lot 30 DP1130623



Forestry Right Interest Maps

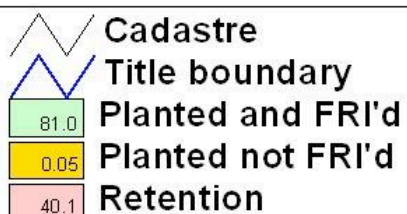
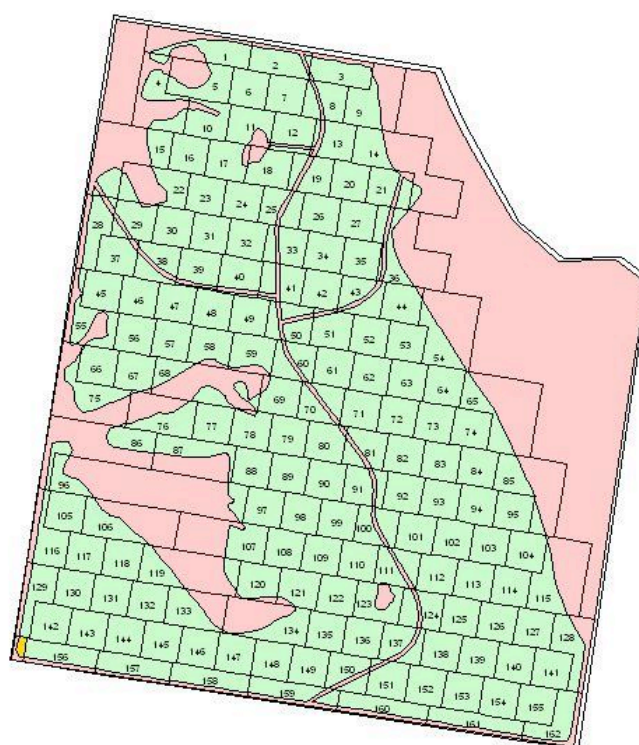
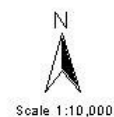


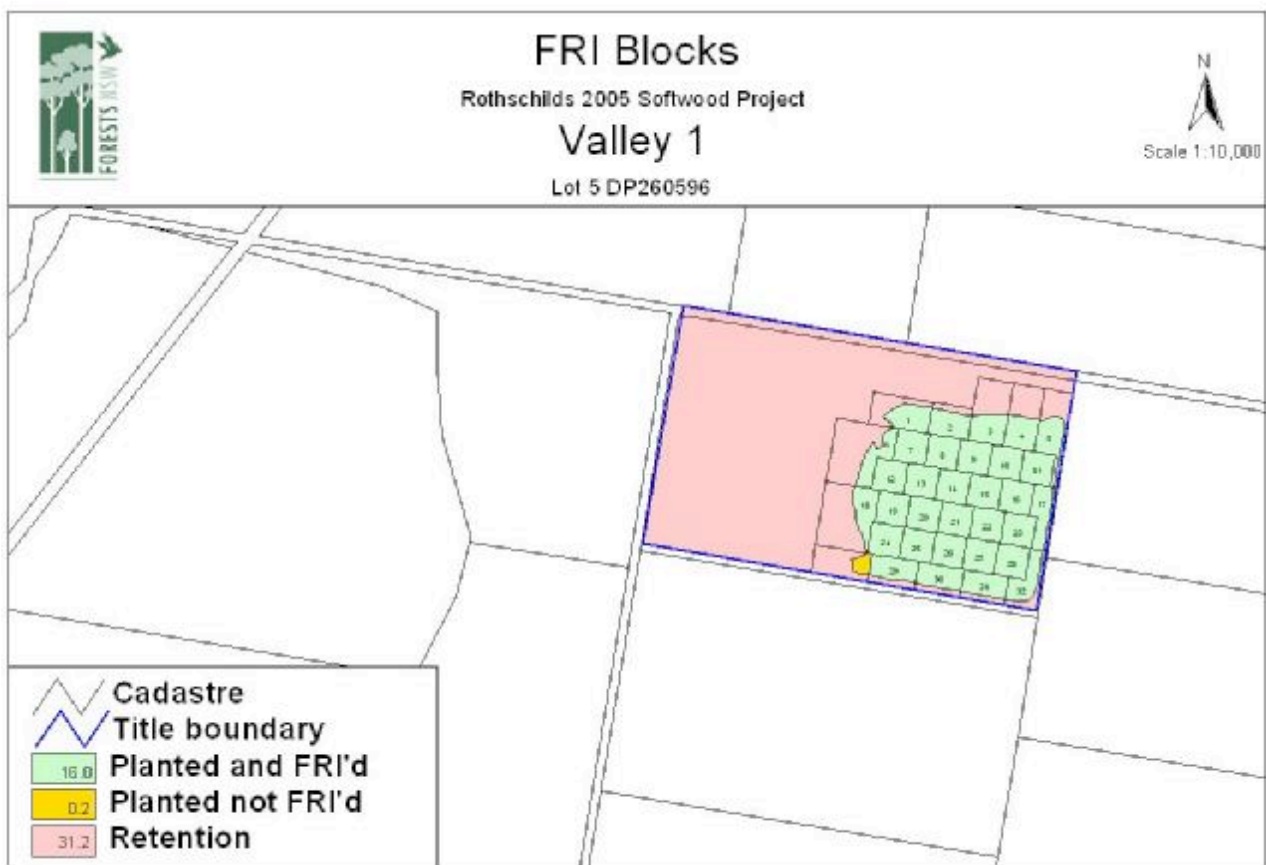
FRI Blocks

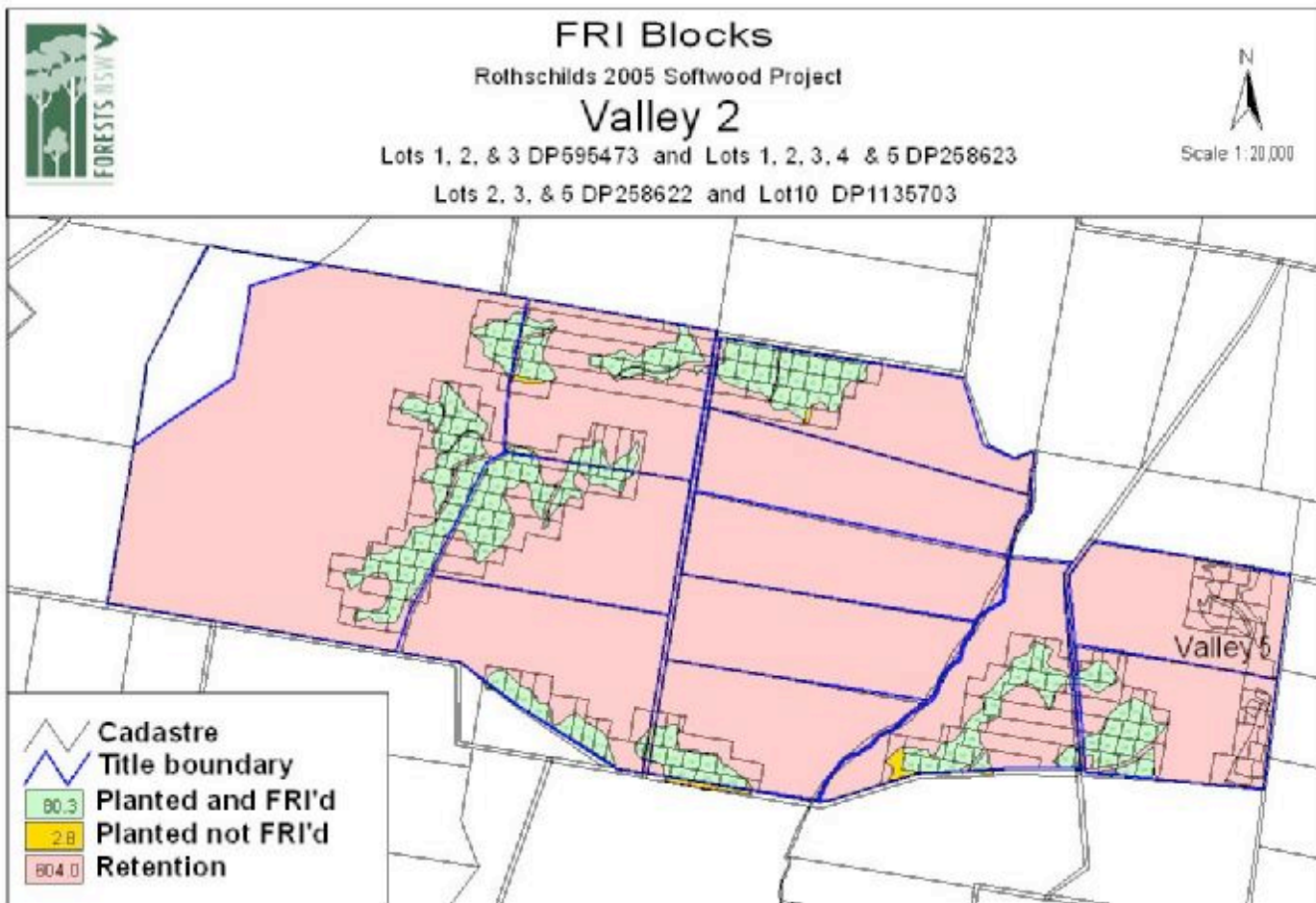
Rothschilds 2005 Softwood Project

Vans

Lot 2 DP218673







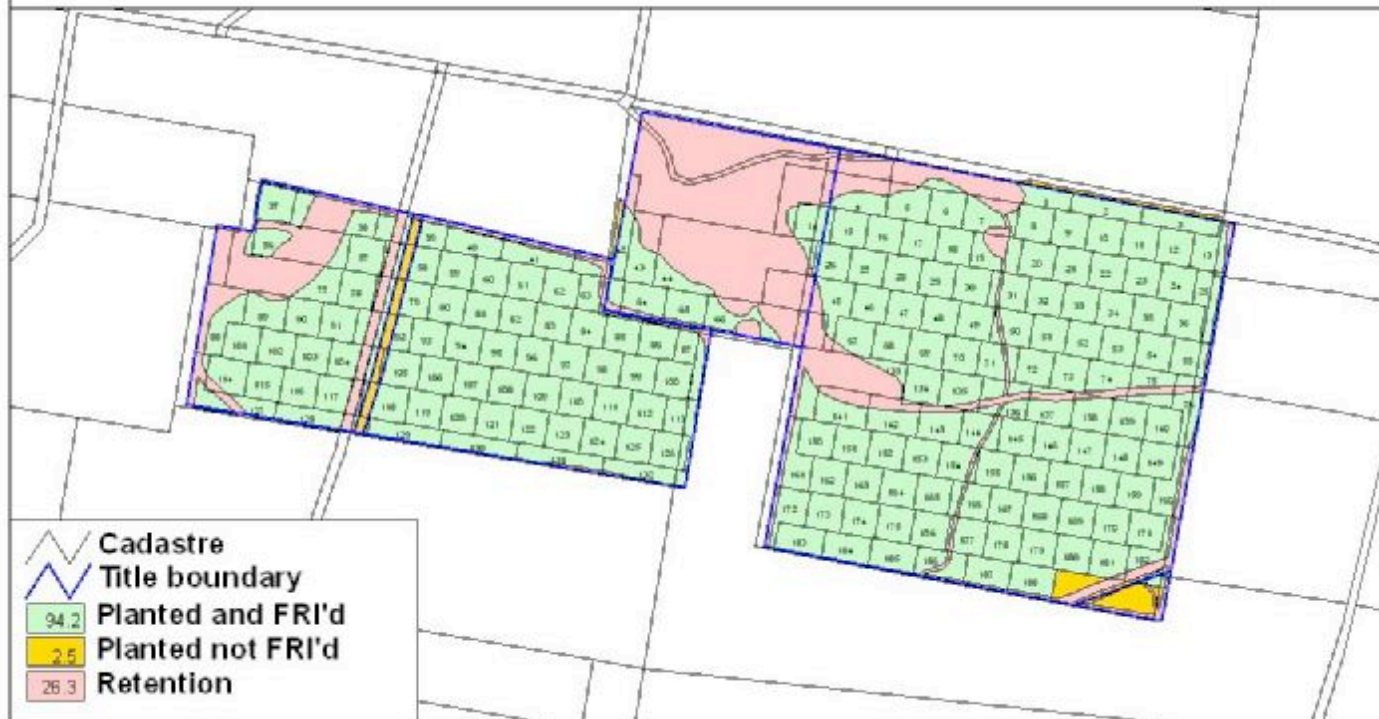


FRI Blocks

Rothschilds 2005 Softwood Project

Valley 3

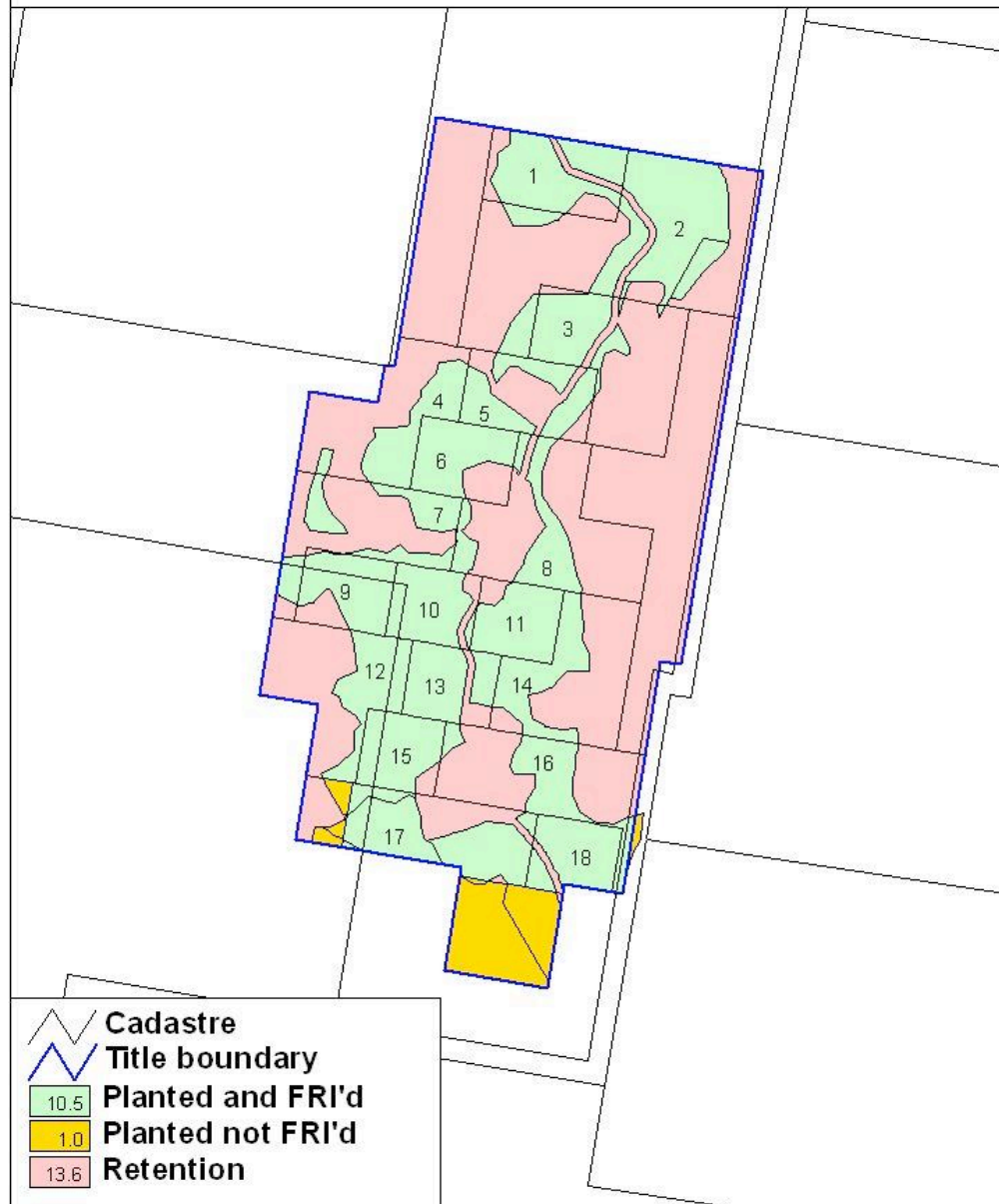
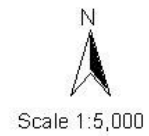
Lot 1 DP126804 and Lot 2 DP595474 and Lot 6 DP24230 and Lot 45 DP755852





FRI Blocks

Rothschilds 2005 Softwood Project
Valley 4
Lot 50 DP1135702



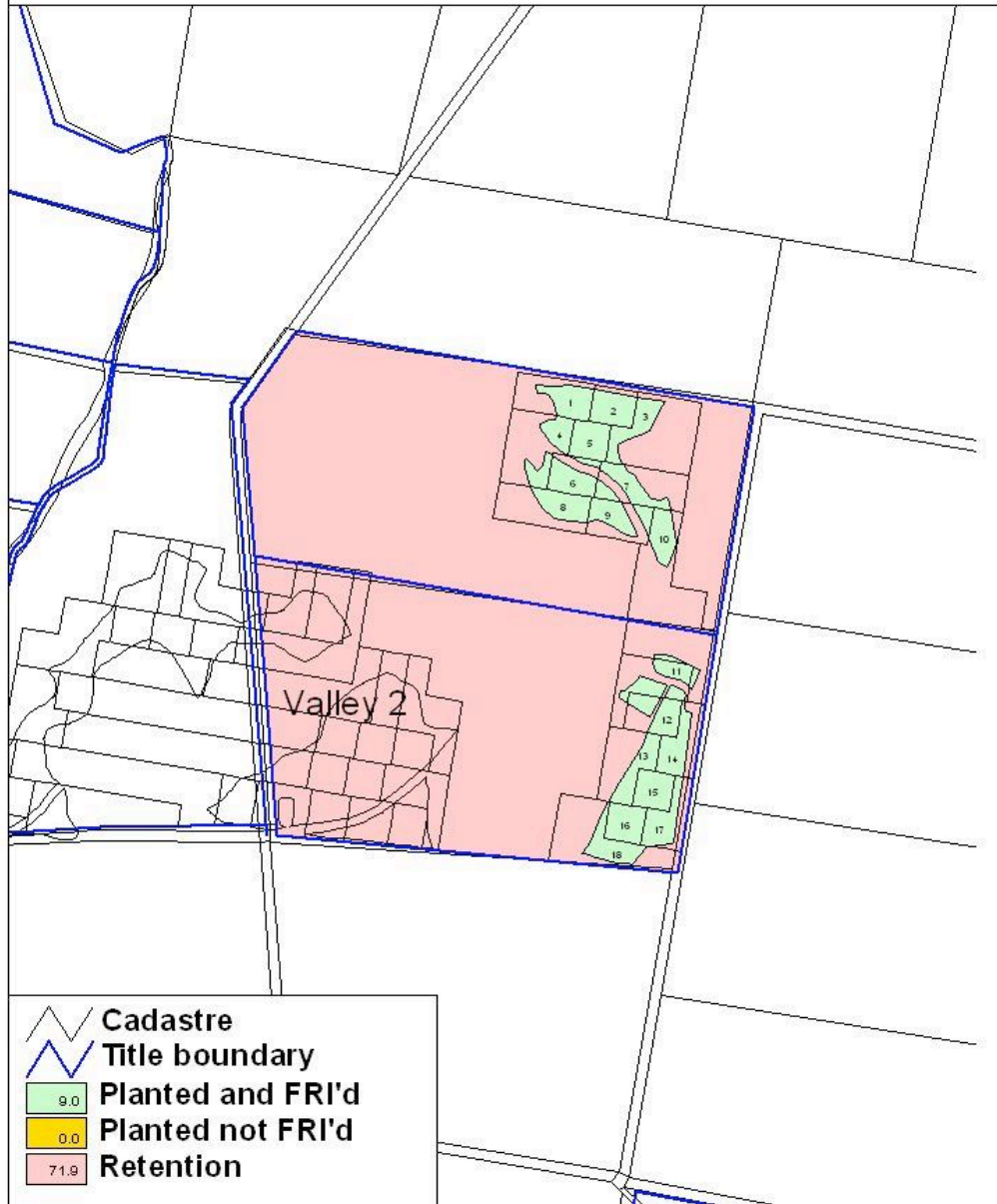
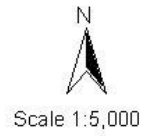


FRI Blocks

Rothschilds 2005 Softwood Project

Valley 5

Lot 2 & 3 DP258622





FRI Blocks

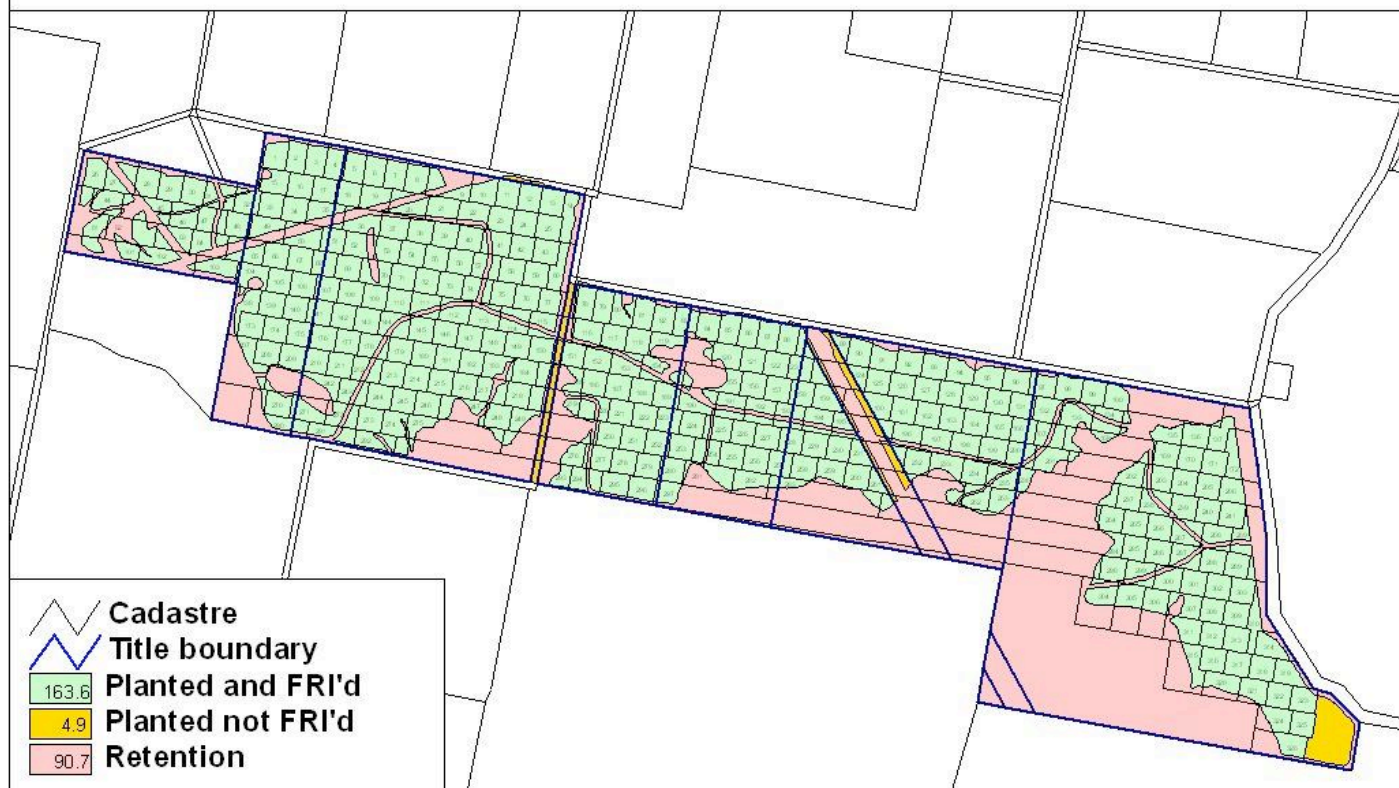
Rothschilds 30th June 2005 Softwood Project

Mingaryvale

Lots 4, 7, 10, 24, 34, 48 and 49 DP 753064



Scale 1:15,000



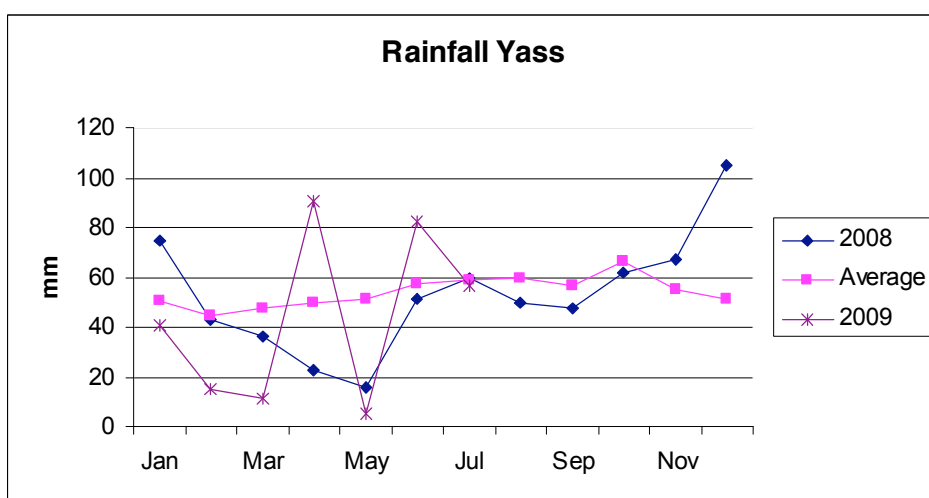
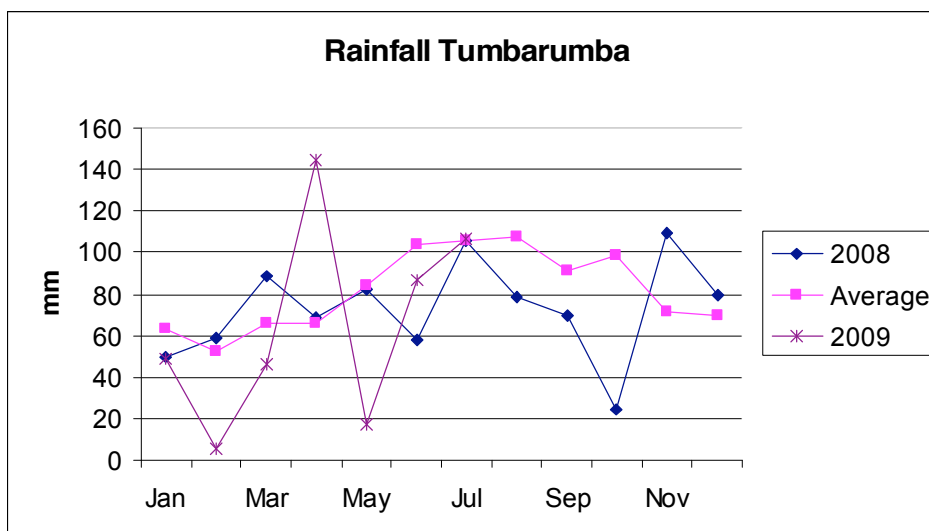
Annexure C

Climatic Conditions recorded at BOM Station, Tumbarumba Post Office

Tumbarumba PO													
Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2008	49.4	58.8	88.2	68.6	82.6	57.8	105.5	78.8	69.6	24.6	109.6	80	873.5
Average	63.2	52.5	66	66.2	84.5	104.2	105.5	107.2	91.4	98.6	71.8	69.7	980.8
Deficit for Mth	-13.8	6.3	22.2	2.4	-1.9	-46.4	0	-28.4	-21.8	-74	37.8	10.3	-107.3
Deficit for YTD 2008	-13.8	-7.5	14.7	17.1	15.2	-31.2	-31.2	-59.6	-81.4	-155.4	-117.6	-107.3	
2009	48.8	5	46.4	145	17.4	86.4	106.6						455.6
Deficit for Mth	-14.4	-47.5	-19.6	78.8	-67.1	-17.8	1.1						
Deficit for YTD 2009	-14.4	-61.9	-81.5	-2.7	-69.8	-87.6	-86.5						

Climatic Conditions recorded at BOM Station, Yass

Yass Linton Hostel													
Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2008	74.6	43	36	22.8	16.2	51.4	59.5	49.8	47.3	62	67.4	104.8	634.8
Average	50.9	44.4	47.5	49.6	51.3	57.3	58.8	59.5	56.7	66.6	54.8	51.2	648.6
Deficit for Mth	23.7	-1.4	-11.5	-26.8	-35.1	-5.9	0.7	-9.7	-9.4	-4.6	12.6	53.6	-13.8
Deficit for YTD 2008	23.7	22.3	10.8	-16	-51.1	-57	-56.3	-66	-75.4	-80	-67.4	-13.8	
2009	40.8	14.8	11.6	90.4	5	82	56.8						301.4
Deficit for Mth	-10.1	-29.6	-35.9	40.8	-46.3	24.7	-2						
Deficit for YTD 2009	-10.1	-39.7	-75.6	-34.8	-81.1	-56.4	-58.4						



Climatic Conditions recorded at BOM Station, Oberon

Month (2008-09)	Rainfall Average	Rainfall 12 months	Temperature Average	Temperature 12 months
Jul	70.8	56.5	3.6	3.9
Aug	75.3	55.9	5.4	2.9
Sep	67.7	78.9	8.7	8.6
Oct	79.6	68.6	12.6	11.7
Nov	70.5	124.4	14.1	11.9
Dec	72.7	111.9	16.6	14.8
Jan	81.8	6.4	17.8	17.8
Feb	59.7	84.1	16.9	16.5
Mar	64.6	26.5	15.4	13.4
Apr	58.1	84.1	12.1	10.6
May	60.7	46.4	8.1	7.7
Jun	79.9	59.8	4.7	5.0
Annual	841.6	803.5	11.3	10.4