

**AgriWealth Pty Limited**

**2008 Radiata Pine Project**



**2012-2013 Annual Report**

## Legal Context

This annual report complies with Schedule 1 Part 4(h) of the Forestry Management Contract between AgriWealth Pty Limited and the Forestry Commission of New South Wales (now known as the Forestry Corporation of NSW) for the AgriWealth 2008 Radiata Pine Project.

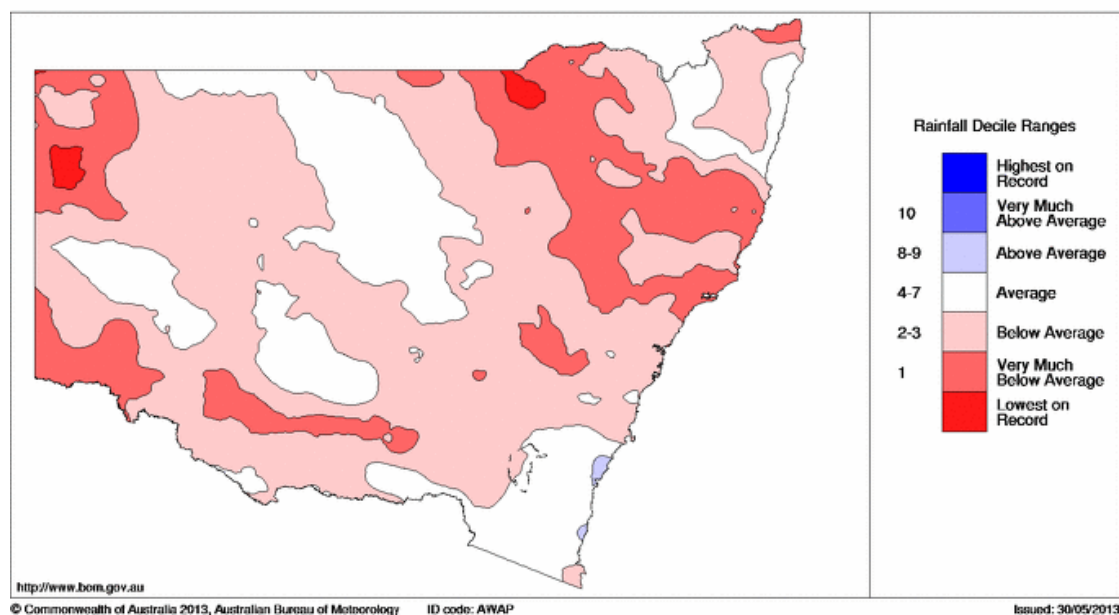
## Background

The 2008 Radiata Pine Project comprises 221.5 hectares of 2009 age class plantation established over four properties in the Hume Region and one property in the Macquarie Region.

## Overview

Rainfall has been below average during the reporting period, with significant dry periods during summer and autumn. Total rainfall at Tumbarumba from July 12 to June 13 was 831 mm compared to the long term average of 980mm. Rainfall in the Macquarie Region was 531mm versus the long term average of 638mm (see Appendix 1.).

Below average rainfall occurred in the critical spring/early summer growing period from September through to December 2012 (Average: 235mm Actual: 75mm) (refer figure 1).



**Figure 1: NSW Rainfall deciles - 1 September 2012 to 30 November 2012**

## Stand Condition

### *Wandalla – Macquarie Region*

Despite less than favourable growing conditions survival and viability of the stand remain excellent (refer figure 2). Previous signs of a potential deficiency in Magnesium/Potassium are no longer evident.



**Figure 2: Wandalla 2009 age class showing excellent survival and form (June 2013)**

#### *Steiner – Hume Region*

Tree growth, stocking and condition is satisfactory, with trees continuing to grow well and stocking is generally good. On the Steiner block there is approximately 2 hectares of plantation with low or no stocking. Poor drainage is the cause of this issue (refer figure 3).



**Figure 4: Steiner 2009 AC July 13 – patches of low stocking on wet soak areas within the plantation**

#### *Turner – Hume Region*

Within the Turner plantation several hectares are affected by low or no stocking on the northern most portion of Compartment 21 which is located in a significant frost hollow (refer figure 4). It is not considered viable to replant these areas due to the nature of the site conditions.



**Figure 4: Turner 2009 age class July 13 – unstocked area on lower slope**

The plantations in the Turner block have recovered well from the heavy hail storm that occurred in late 2011. Recent observation indicates that the trees are not suffering from any ongoing affects.

Localised wattle competition is scattered across the Turner block. The level of wattle competition and any requirement for treatment will be assessed in 2013.

#### *Hosking – Hume Region*

The Hosking plantation is growing well with good stocking and tree growth. Some small areas of animal damage have occurred on the plantation edges adjacent roads. Generally the trees are growing to sufficient size that ongoing damage will be minimal.



**Figure 5: Hosking – August 2013 - Good tree growth**

### *The Valley HQ – Hume Region*

The valley HQ plantation is generally growing well and has good stocking. A localised area associated with saturated soils in a drainage depression is not stocked. It is not considered feasible to restock this area due to the soil conditions.



**Figure 6: The Valley HQ – unstocked drainage depression in foreground.**

### **Pest and Disease Information**

Pest animals are present on all properties, but are not causing any significant damage due to the size and height of the trees.

### **Summary of Operations**

- Pest animal control

### **Fire Incidents**

No fire incidents have occurred within or close to Agriwealth 2008 Project plantations in 2012/13

### **Other Management Issues**

Nil

### **Summary of Activities Planned for 2013/2014**

- Pest animal control as required
- Maintenance of roads and tracks if required
- Identification and signage of Plantation Fire roads for NSW plantations – compliance with Plantations and Reafforestation Code amendments.

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APPENDIX 1  
MACQUARIE REGION RAINFALL JULY 2012 – JUNE 2013

