

**AgriWealth Pty Limited**

**30 JUNE 2007 RADIATA PINE PROJECT**



**2012-2013 Annual Report  
(Part A)**

## **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 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007 Radiata Pine Project.

At the request of AgriWealth two reports have been prepared for this Project. This report (Part A) covers 604 hectares of the 1,451 hectare Project.

## **Background**

This report covers 604 hectares of *Pinus radiata* plantation established on seven properties all located within the Hume Forestry Region. Planting of this project was completed in 2008.

## **Overview**

Rainfall in the Hume Region 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.

Plantation growth and stocking is generally satisfactory on the each of the properties, except E&P 1 which still has been subject to numerous replanting and herbicide treatments between 2009 and 2011. Approximately 50% (40 hectares), of E&P1 continues to be significantly understocked.

## **Stand Condition**

### *Tinonee*

Overall tree growth and condition in this plantation continues to be very good and stocking is satisfactory. Tree stability has improved with tree age and growth and no significant toppling has occurred during the reporting period.

As noted in previous reports, tree form is less satisfactory on the lower slopes and flats, with some bushy trees indicating potential boron nutrient deficiency. Current observations are that the tree form continues to improve with tree growth and age.

Small areas of little or no stocking are present on drainage depressions where soils are often waterlogged. No remedial action is considered warranted due to the insignificant areas affected and that replanting is unlikely to be successful.



**Figure 1: Tinonee July 2013 – foreground shows unstocked drainage depression**

*Walkers, McLennan, Russell and E&P2*

Plantations stocking is generally satisfactory and improved growth as the trees have established site dominance. As reported previously, small areas in low lying area with poor drainage have poor stocking and less vigorous growth due to effects of cold air drainage and frost. It is not considered beneficial to replant these areas.



**Figure 2: Walkers 2008AC – August 2013**



**Figure 3: Russell 2008AC - August 2013**



**Figure 4: McLennon 2008AC July 2013**





**Figure 5: E&P 2 2008AC - July 2013**

#### *E&P1*

A significant proportion of this property was subject to patch replanting from 2010 to 2011 however this program has been only partially successful due to some ongoing damage from wild horses, despite a successful horse removal program during 2010.



**Figure 6: E&P1 2008AC – August 2013 – stocking variable. Growth improving.**

Localised frost damage to replanted seedlings has also negatively affected the results of the replanting program. General growth of the plantation has been impeded by the poor stocking and requirement to replant. In the order of 40 hectares is estimated to be affected by poor stocking. The areas with low stocking are likely to have poor tree form which will affect future yields and wood quality.

#### *Hansen*

The plantation has continued to grow well with noticeable growth since the last report. Observations indicate that the plantation continues to be successful.



**Figure 7: Hansen 2008AC August 2013**

As previously reported, there are some localised areas where very heavy blackberry competition, combined with lack of access in windrowed harvesting debris at planting time, has resulted in some small unstocked areas.

### **Summary of Activities undertaken**

Activities undertaken on the properties were associated with the finalisation of plantation establishment treatments, replanting and maintenance, and included:

- Pest animal control
- Maintenance of roads and tracks
- Grazing to reduce the grass and associated fire hazard, at Tinonee

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

- Map areas affected by low stocking E&P 1
- Maintenance of roads and tracks
- Continue grazing at Tinonee to reduce excessive grass growth and associated fire hazard.
- Identification and signage of Plantation Fire roads for NSW plantations – compliance with Plantations and Reafforestation Code amendments.

### **Pest and Disease Information**

Pest animals are present on all properties and there has been some minor damage to plantation trees. Russell and E&P1 in particular continue to be affected by native animal browsing, some rabbit damage and trampling and browsing damage by wild horses. Damage levels however have significantly reduced as the trees have grown.

On most properties, no significant issues with disease have been observed.

On the Hansen property low levels of *Dothistroma* infection remain present adjacent to drainage lines, with some areas of moderate infection presenting on the lowest areas. Drier seasonal conditions experienced during last summer and autumn have not been conducive to ongoing significant infections of *Dothistroma*.

**Fire Incidents**

No fire incidents have occurred within or close to any of the 30 June 2007 Radiata Pine Project plantations.

**Other Management Issues**

Nil

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