

AgriWealth Pty Limited

2008 Radiata Pine Project



2013-2014 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 Tumut management area of Snowy Region (formerly Hume Region) and one property in the Bathurst management area of Northern Region (formally Macquarie Region).

Overview

Rainfall in the Tumut management area was average during the reporting period, with significant dry periods during summer and autumn. Total rainfall at Tumbarumba from July 13 to June 14 was 997 mm compared to the long term average of 979 mm.

In the Bathurst management area the 2013-2014 growing season was challenging for both growth and asset protection. It was characterised by below average rainfall, above average temperatures and some of the worst fire weather conditions recorded in NSW (refer figures 1 and 2).

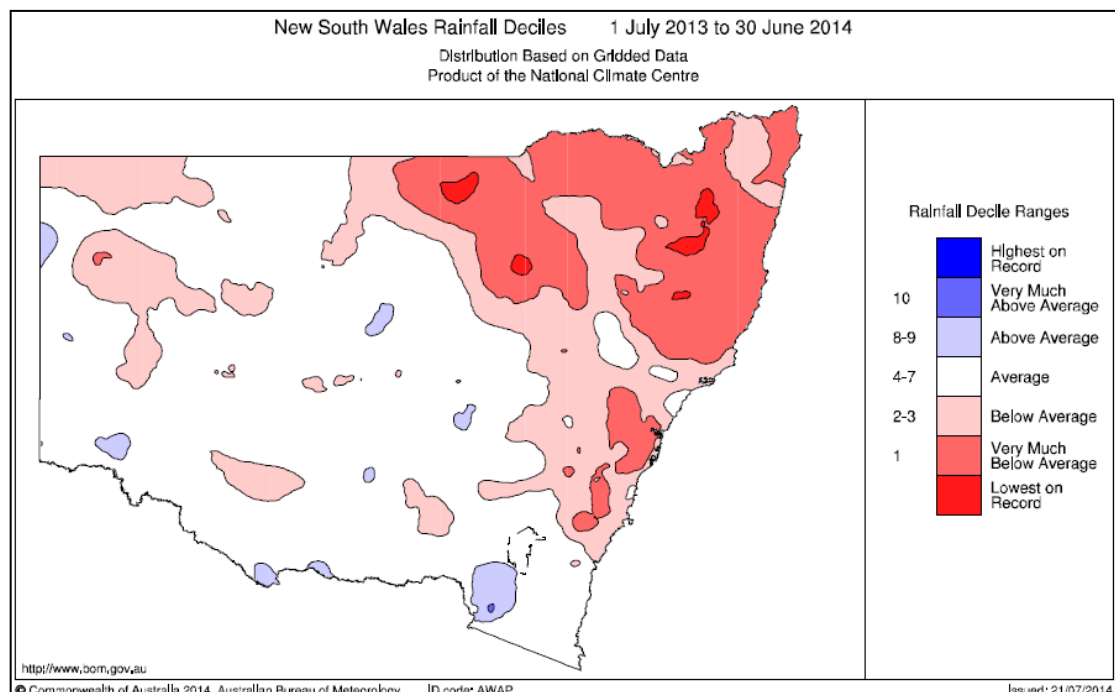


Figure 1: NSW Rainfall deciles - 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014

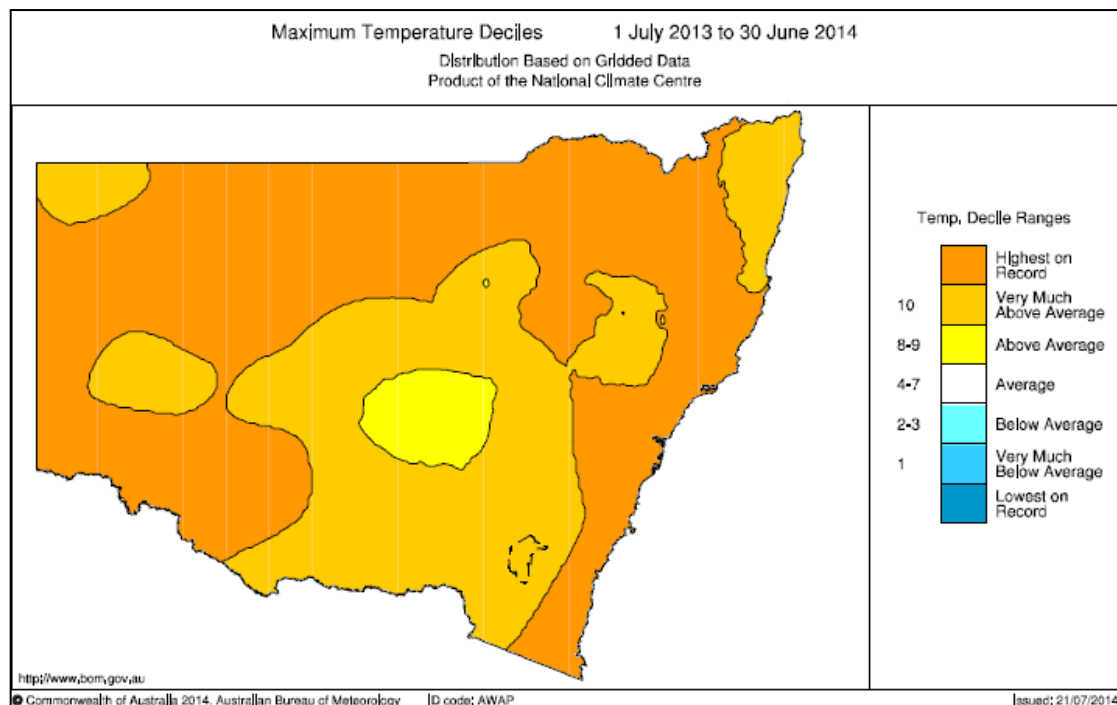


Figure 2: NSW Maximum temperature deciles - 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014

Stand Condition

Wandalla - Bathurst

In general the stand continues to exhibit excellent condition. It remains well stocked, healthy, vigorous and with reasonable form. The 2013-2014 growing season was very challenging with above average temperatures and below average rainfall. This will have limited stand productivity for the season. However, when the age class was inspected in June 2014 the crop did not appear to have suffered with respect to survival, health or form (see figures 3 and 4 below).



Figure 3: Wandalla 2009AC. A healthy, uniform and vigorous crop form (June 2014).



Figure 4: Wandalla 2009AC. Five year old trees – excellent survival and good form (June 2014)

Steiner – Hume Region

Tree growth, stocking and condition is very good, with trees continuing to grow well and stocking is generally good. As previously reported on the Steiner block there is approximately 2 hectares of plantation with low or no stocking due to poor drainage at establishment.



Figure 5: Steiner 2009 AC May 13 – well stocked and excellent early growth

Turner – Hume Region



Figure 6: Turner 2009 age class July 13 – unstocked area on lower slope

The plantations in the Turner block are generally growing well and are in good condition. Any residual damage from the heavy hail storm that occurred in late 2011 is minimal and the trees are not suffering from any ongoing affects.

There is some scattered wattle and eucalypt regrowth present in the plantation however it is not considered to be having a significant effect on plantation growth.

As previously reported, 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.

Hosking – Hume Region

The Hosking plantation is continues to grow well with good stocking and tree growth.



Figure 7: Hosking – May 2014 - 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.

Biosecurity & Forest Health

Forest health aerial surveillance and monitoring occurred over all properties in Winter 2013. No significant issues were identified (refer figures 8 and 9).

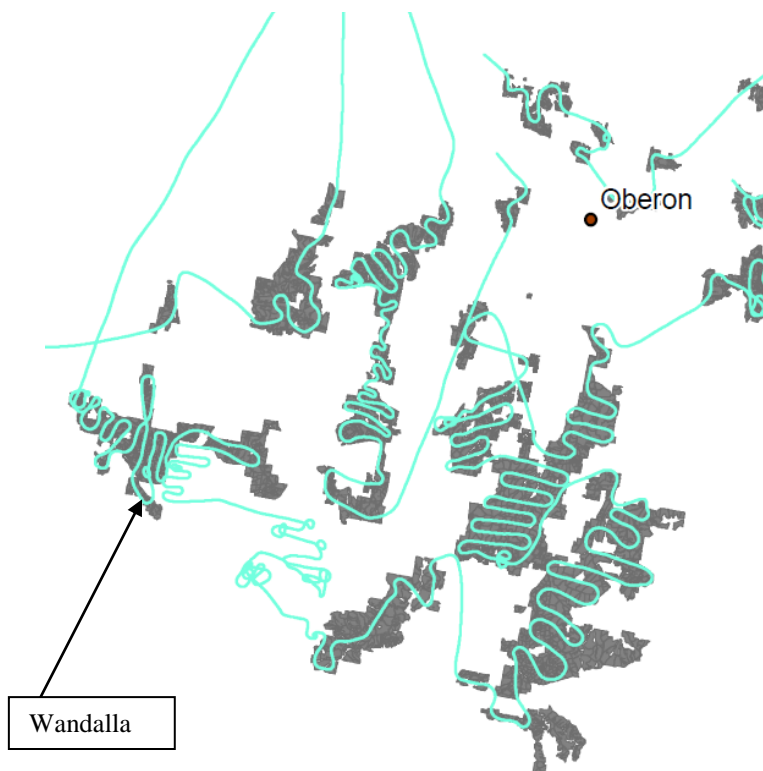


Figure 8: Bathurst management area forest health aerial surveillance flight path – winter 2013.

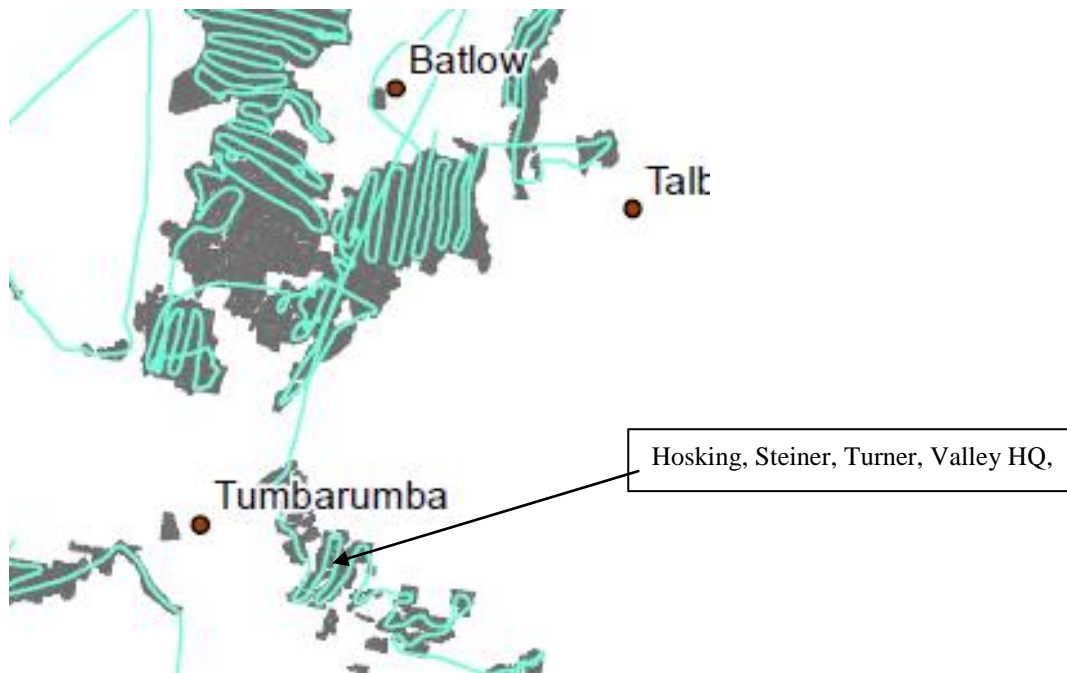


Figure 9: Tumut management area forest health aerial surveillance flight path – winter 2013.

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

Fire Incidents

Tumut Management Unit

No fire incidents have occurred within or close to Agriwealth 2008 Project plantations during the reporting period

Bathurst Management Unit - Wandalla

No fire incidents have occurred within or close to any of the plantations. Access through the forest is good with roads generally being relatively clean and weed free. This will greatly assist fire attack and containment should the need arise.

Summary of Activities Planned for 2014/2015

- Forest health aerial surveillance and monitoring
- Pest and weed 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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