

**AgriWealth Pty Limited**

**30 JUNE 2007 RADIATA PINE PROJECT**



**2013-2014 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 Snowy Forestry Region (formerly called Hume Forestry Region). Planting of this project was completed in 2008.

## **Overview**

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

Plantation growth and stocking is generally satisfactory on 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 form and stability, particularly on the lower slopes, has continued to improve with tree age and growth and no significant toppling is evident.

No significant issues are currently evident in this plantation.



**Figure 1: Tinonee May 2014 – healthy trees and good growth**



**Figure 2: Tinonee May 2014 – improved tree stability and form on lower slopes**

*Walkers, McLennan, Russell and E&P2*

These plantations have continued to perform satisfactorily over the reporting period, with good growth and tree health being evident over the majority of the plantations.



The plantations have now developed site dominance and the trees are of sufficient size that ongoing pest animal damage is not significant.

As reported previously, small areas in low lying area with poor drainage have poorer stocking, form and less vigorous growth due to effects of cold air drainage and frost.

No other significant issues are evident in these plantations.



**Figure 3: Walkers 2008AC – May 2014**



**Figure 4: Russell 2008AC - May 2014**



**Figure 5: McLennan 2008AC May 2014 – middle ground lower slope**



**Figure 6: E&P 2 2008AC - May 2014 – Very good tree growth and plantation condition.**

#### *E&P1*

The condition of this plantation is variable due to previously reported, partially successful restocking and some ongoing damage from pest animals. An area of about 6 hectares is practically unstocked. This area, predominantly located in compartments 36 and 37 south of Dingo Road, has had ongoing tree survival problems and has suffered from ongoing damage from wild horses and deer, figure 7. Wild deer may continue to damage growing trees in selected areas and it is impractical to fence off access in a forest situation. It is noted that significant, but unsuccessful effort has been made to restock these areas.

Overall general growth of the plantation has been impeded by the poor initial stocking and requirement to replant. In the order of 40 hectares is estimated to be affected by poor stocking. Replanting has had some effect in increasing stocking in some areas, figure 8. The areas with low stocking are likely to have poor tree form which will affect future yields and wood quality.





**Figure 7: E&P1 2008AC – May 2014 – unstocked area with tree damage by wild deer.**



**Figure 8: E&P1 2008AC – May 2014 – low stocked area with emerging restocked trees.**

#### *Hansen*

The plantation has continued to perform well with normal growth since the last report. No significant issues have been observed.

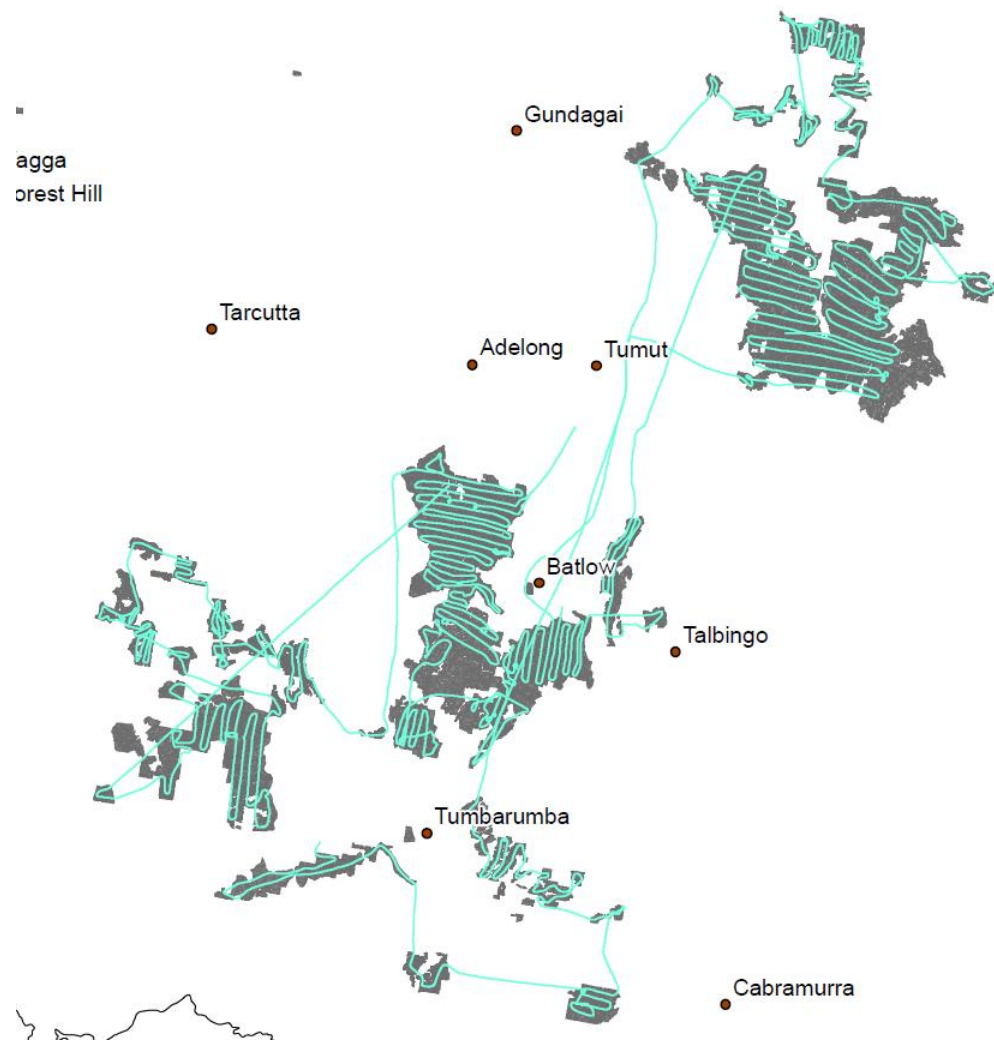


**Figure 9: Hansen 2008AC middle right - May 2014**

### **Biosecurity & Forest Health**

Forest health aerial surveillance and monitoring occurred over all properties in the Tumut management area in Winter 2013. No new or emerging issues were identified.





**Figure 10: Tumut management area forest health aerial surveillance flight path – winter 2013.**

Pest animal damage to plantation trees has reduced to insignificant levels on most of the project properties as the trees have grown. The exception is E&P1, where ongoing damage to larger trees is being caused by wild deer. Some trampling and browsing of smaller trees by wild horses has also continued to occur in specific areas as detailed in the stand condition notes above. It is noted that AgriWealth has authorised deer hunters to cull wild deer on all properties in the locality.

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 lying areas. Drier seasonal conditions experienced during spring and early summer have constrained further infection.

### **Fire Incidents**

A significant fire incident occurred close to the Tinonnee plantation on 14 January 2014, RFS incident 14011452148 – Dunkirk fire. The fire started under a power line



about 2km south west of the plantation and was contained by RFS, FCNSW and other plantation company crews. The fire burnt within 1km of the Tinonnee plantation.

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

#### **Summary of Activities Planned for 2014/2015**

- Aerial forest health surveillance and monitoring
- 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.

#### **Other Management Issues**

Nil

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