

**AgriWealth Pty Limited**

**2011 SOFTWOOD TIMBER PROJECT  
&  
2011 TIMBER PROJECT**



**2014-2015 Annual Report**

## Context

This annual report has been prepared in accordance with Schedule 1 Part 3(h) of the Forestry Management Contract between AgriWealth Pty Limited and the Forestry Commission of New South Wales (now trading as the Forestry Corporation of NSW) for the 2011 Timber Project.

## Background

The 2011 Project is located at Wandalla, 40 kilometres south west of Oberon within the Bathurst management unit of Northern Softwoods. The project comprises 50 hectares of plantation that was established in 2012. Planting occurred in winter using GF19 containerised stock. Being the fourth planting program at Wandalla the plantation is referred to as Stage 4.

## 2014-15 Growing Season

The Bathurst management unit was subject to another challenging growing season receiving below average rainfall (figure 1) and very much above average temperatures (figure 2). The effect of the drier conditions was offset by high rainfall events in December and April. Rainfall for Oberon (Springbank) was 764 mm compared to a long term average of 840 mm (refer Annexure A).

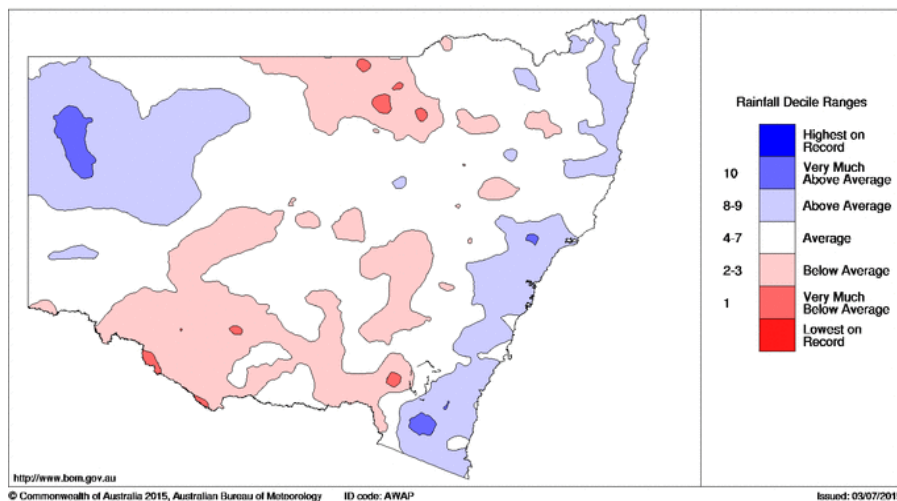


Figure 1 – New South Wales Rainfall Deciles – 2014-2015

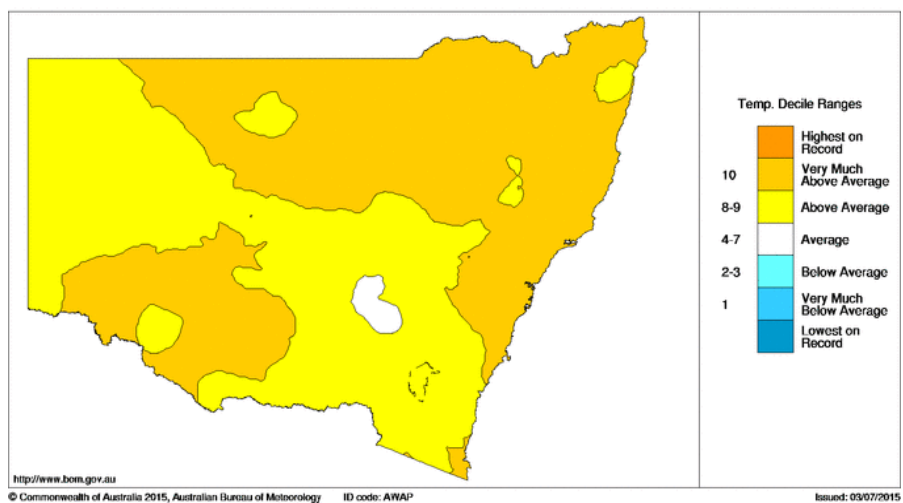


Figure 2: NSW Maximum temperature deciles - 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

### **Stand Condition and Forest Health**

Despite a less than perfect growing season the Stage 4 plantation continues to exhibit good form and vigour (figure 3).



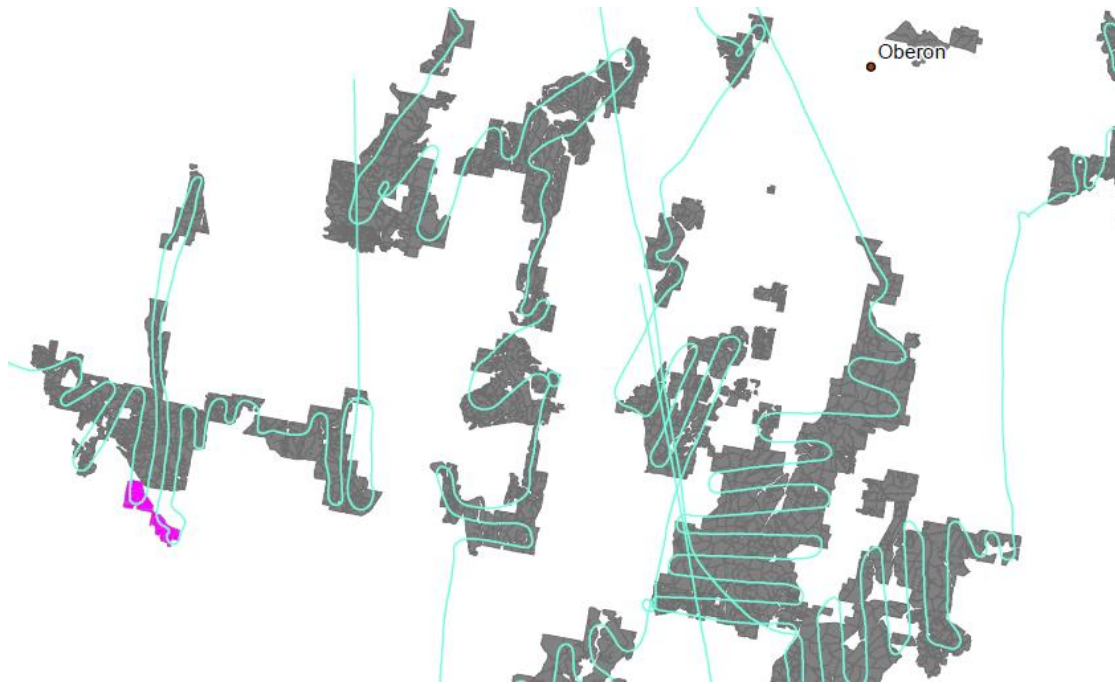
**Figure 3: Wandalla Stage 4 – three year old trees showing good survival, vigour and form (Dec 2014).**

The timing of this year's forest health survey was rescheduled to ensure that reports from NSW DPI Forest Health unit could be received in advance of AgriWealth's annual reporting deadline (forest health reports have traditionally been one year in arrears as they are received after the annual report submission date).

Forest health aerial surveillance and monitoring was undertaken in July 2015 (refer figure 4). This was complemented with ground inspections in July-August 2015. Ground inspection confirmed the 2012 age class to be in excellent health and free of pest interference. Competition from wattle was identified as an emerging issue

In some places wattle has emerged and is of sufficient density and height to compete with the crop (figure 5). This is not a concern at this point, but if left untreated it will impact on crop survival and productivity. In Spring 2015 (Sept-Oct) the areas of wattle infestation will be aeriually sprayed with Clomac 750. This will control the wattle but not harm the crop.





**Figure 4: Forest health aerial surveillance flight path over Bathurst plantations – July 2015 (Wandalla coloured pink).**



**Figure 5: Wandalla Stage 4 (Dec 2014) – wattle is starting to compete with the crop. The wattle is scheduled for control, by aerial spraying, in Spring 2015.**

Boron deficiency is quite common in pine plantations planted on ex-pasture sites. The older age classes planted at Wandalla were all treated for Boron deficiency when they were 2-3 years old. Obvious symptoms in a juvenile crop include sinuosity (wiggles) in the main leader of the tree (see figure 6 below). This is not a concern at the current age as the symptoms are only minor, but if left untreated would result in stem malformation and reduced crop value at time of harvest.

In Spring 2015 (Sept-Oct) the entire 2011 project (2012 age class) will be treated with Ulexite. This will correct the deficiency and will prevent further symptoms emerging. Usually a single treatment of Boron is all that is required for the life of the crop.



**Figure 6: Wandalla Stage 4 (Dec 2014) – signs of boron deficiency are starting to show (stem sinuosity). This is scheduled for correction, by aerial application of fertiliser, in Spring 2015.**

### **Biosecurity**

In October 2014 Giant Pine Scale (*Marchalina hellenica*) was detected in suburban Melbourne and Adelaide. Giant Pine Scale is a scale insect that lives by sucking the sap of pine, fir and spruce trees. Trees impacted by large populations of giant pine scale suffer severe dehydration and dieback of branches, and can eventually die. Representatives from the Commonwealth, State and industry have agreed to a national eradication program which is currently underway in Melbourne and Adelaide. Each state jurisdiction has also agreed to undertake monitoring in amenity and production pine plantings. During this year's surveys no Giant Pine Scale was detected in AgriWealth plantations nor in the region.

**Fire Management**

No fire incidents have occurred within or close to any of the plantations.

The plantations were inspected in July 2015 to check for compliance to Forest Corporation NSW standards for fire preparedness and the Plantations and Re-forestation Act. For the 2011 project there are no actions proposed other than signage at the main entry point to the forest indicating the condition of the internal access tracks with respect to their use by Category 1 fire appliances.

**Other Management Issues**

Nil

Report Prepared by

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FOREST MODELLER

NORTHERN SOFTWOODS

Monthly Rainfall Statistics

