

AgriWealth Pty Limited

2006 Softwood Project



2014-2015 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 Plantation Investment 2006 Softwood Project, dated 21 June 2006.

Background

The 2006 Radiata Pine Project is located 3 kilometres west of Batlow on the property known as Hansen.

Plantation Area Review

A review of the net stocked area of the plantation was undertaken in June 2015 using new aerial photo coverage. This is the first review that has been undertaken since the completion of the post plant survival assessment (Table 1). Any natural attrition and mortality that has occurred over the last seven years has been captured in this process.

Table 1 – Updated Net Stocked Area

Plantation	Net Stocked Area in 2015 (ha)
Hansen (2007AC)	36.8

The updated net stocked area constitutes a change of minus 0.4%.

2014-15 Growing Season

Rainfall was below average during the reporting period (figure 1) with dry spells occurring in spring and late summer. The dry periods were partially offset by above average rainfall in December and January. Total rainfall at Tumbarumba for 2014-15 was 765 mm compared to the long term average of 977 mm.

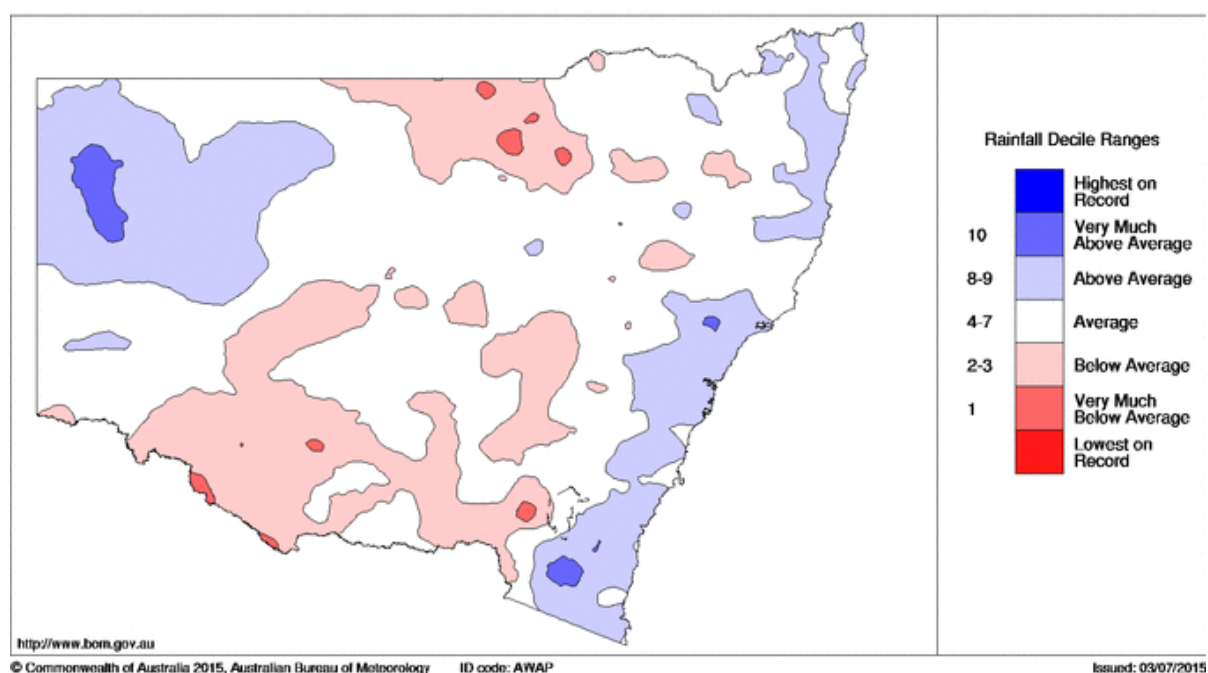


Figure 1 – New South Wales Rainfall Deciles – 2014-2015

Mean temperatures were above average (figure 2).

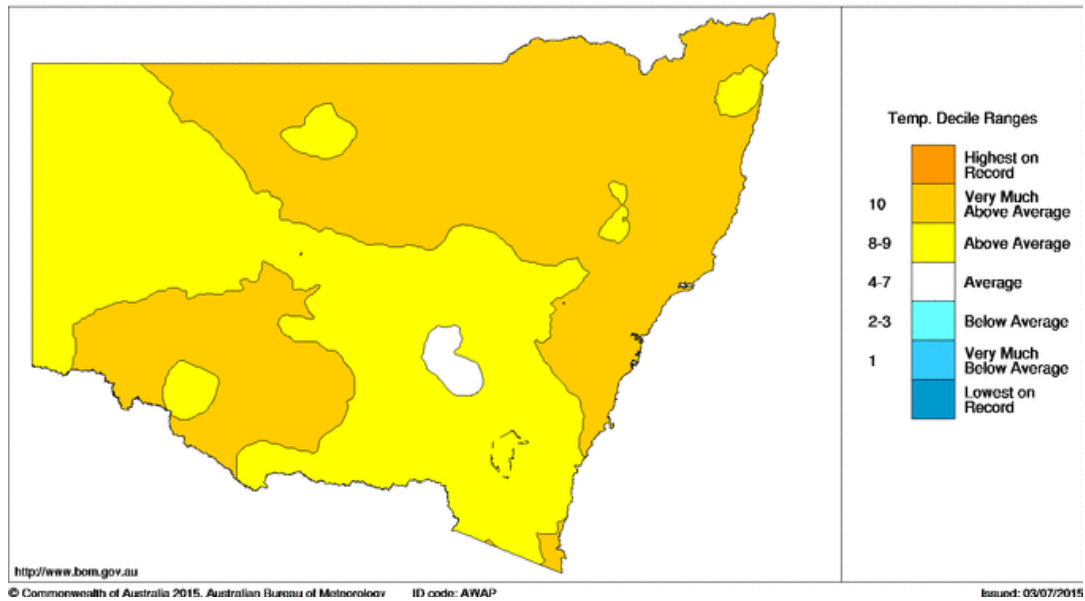


Figure 2 – New South Wales Rainfall Deciles – 2014-2015

Stand Condition

The plantation has continued to grow well. The trees are maintaining full site occupancy across the plantation (figure 3). The level of wattle infestation previously reported, has declined to insignificant levels and it is not considered to be having a significant effect on plantation growth.

There are some areas of this plantation that are affected by *Dothistroma* needle blight as detailed in the biosecurity & forest health section.



Figure 3: Hansen 2007 AC – (August 2015).

Forest Health Surveys

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).

Aerial forest health surveillance was undertaken in June-July 2015 (figure 4).



Figure 4: Aerial forest health surveillance flight path over Tumut management unit - winter 2015 (Hansen plantation shown in pink)

Survey revealed varying levels of *Dothistroma* infection which have been supported by a period of wet weather in November/December 2014. Infection over the majority of the plantation, particularly upper slopes, is low to moderate. High infection levels were found immediately adjacent to drainage lines (figure 5). No action is planned at this point however the issue will continue to be monitored.

No evidence of any other significant pest or disease has been observed.



Figure 5: Hansen 2007 AC – Thin tree crowns and high level of Dothistroma in lowest area of plantation.

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.

Activities planned for 2015/2016

- Forest health aerial surveillance and monitoring
- Maintenance of roads and tracks as required – woody weed spraying
- Identification and signage of plantation fire roads to comply with Plantations and Afforestation Code amendments

Fire Incidents

No fire incidents occurred within or close to the plantation during the reporting period

Other Management Issues

Nil

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STEWARDSHIP AND FIRE MANAGER

SNOWY REGION

For

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Monthly Rainfall Statistics

