

30 JUNE 2007 RADIATA PINE PROJECT

AgriWealth Pty Limited



Forests NSW Annual Report
(Part A)

Financial Year 2011-2012

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 (Forests NSW) for the AgriWealth 30th 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.

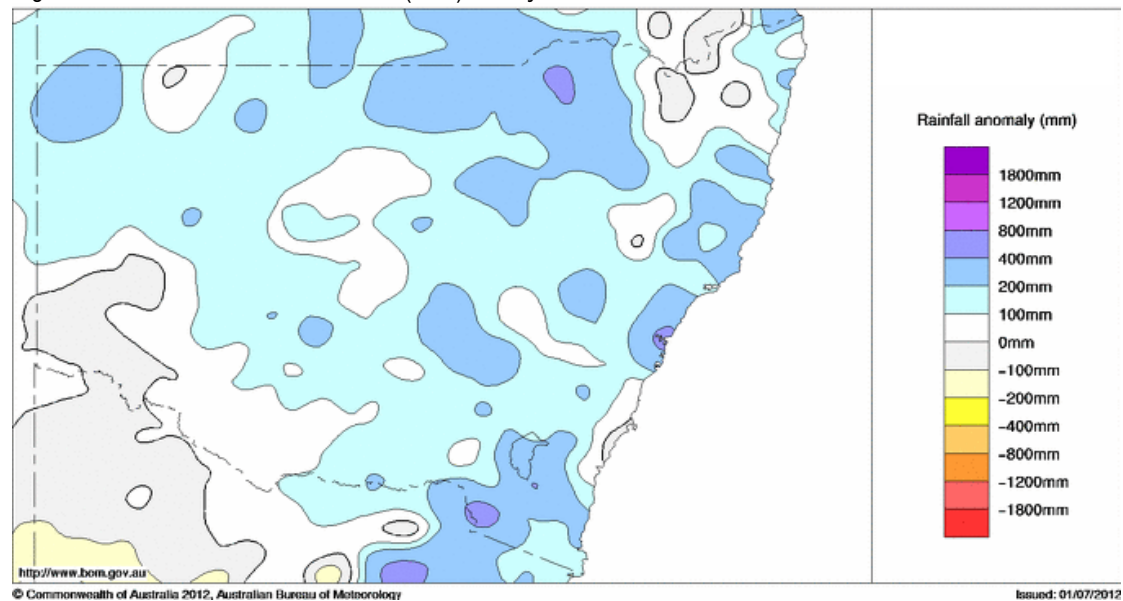
Overview

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.

Rainfall in Hume Region was above average during the reporting period (refer figure 1) with significant rainfall occurring in late spring and in early March. The rainfall resulted in good tree growth for all plantation areas. Total rainfall at Tumbarumba from July 11 to June 12 was 1214mm compared to the long term average of 980mm. Total rainfall for Yass was 50% above the long term average.

Figure 1 NSW Rainfall Anomalies (mm) 1 July 2011- 30 June 2012



Plantation growth and stocking is generally satisfactory on the majority of the properties and particularly good at Tinonee. E&P 1 has ongoing stocking issues despite replanting and herbicide treatment programs in 2009 and 2010. Approximately half this block is still significantly understocked.

Stand Condition

Tinonee

Overall tree growth and condition in this plantation is very good and stocking is satisfactory. A small proportion of individual trees continue to be affected by toppling. The affected trees are dispersed through the plantation, appearing to be more prevalent on the lower slopes, specifically in Compartment 46. It is apparent that many of the trees affected have developed very poor roots, with the tree roots breaking from the stem just below ground level. This damage is not expected to have a significant affect on future timber yields or quality.

As noted in the report from last year, a proportion of the trees have a bushy appearance usually related to low levels of boron availability. Bushy trees are more evident on the lower slope areas. Folia nutrient sampling undertaken in 2011 indicated potential effects from low boron. Current observation indicates that the majority trees are currently growing into a more apically dominant form. It is proposed to continue to monitor the situation over the next 12 months to review potential requirement for additional application of boron fertiliser.



Tinonee Aug 2012



Topped trees at Tinonee - Aug 2012

Walkers, McLennan, Russell and E&P2

Plantations stocking is generally satisfactory and reasonable growth was associated with the favourable seasonal conditions. 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.



McLennan 08 July 2012



Russell July 12

E&P1

A significant proportion of this property was subject to patch replanting in 2010 and 2011 however the area has been subject to ongoing damage from wild horses. Forests NSW implemented a successful horse removal program during 2010 which has significantly minimised ongoing damage. Sections of this plantation will require ongoing supplementary planting in 2012 with follow up herbicide treatment also required. General growth of the plantation has impeded by the poor stocking and requirement to replant. The areas with low stocking are likely to have poor tree form which will affect future yields and wood quality.



Low stocking due to wild horse damage E & P 1 July 2012

Hansen

Tree growth and condition is satisfactory. Trees are establishing site dominance over the majority of the plantation area, growing through the blackberry and bracken that is present on this site. Scattered wattle is also present, but is not considered to be having a significant effect on plantation growth. Low to moderate infection of *Dothistroma* needle blight is present on the lower slopes.

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



Hansen 2008 – Aug 2012

Summary of Activities undertaken

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

- Additional herbicide treatment and replanting, mostly on E&P 1 property.
- Pest animal control
- Maintenance of roads and tracks
- Fence maintenance
- Installation of road signage at Tinonee

Summary of Activities Planned for 2012/2013

- Additional replanting and herbicide treatments where stocking is unsatisfactory in the E&P 1 property.
- Monitor for boron deficiency symptoms at Tinonee, where foliar nutrient analysis and tree form has indicated that there may be a requirement for additional boron application.
- Pest animal control, including fence maintenance where appropriate
- 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 localised areas of damage. Russell and E&P1 in particular have been affected by native animal browsing, some rabbit damage and trampling and browsing damage by wild horses.

Wild horses have previously caused significant damage to trees in an area of about 15 hectares in the E&P 1 property. Controlling wild horses is difficult due to local and general community sensitivities; however, Forests NSW has been successful in implementing a wild horse removal program in 2010, which has reduced ongoing tree damage.

In addition to routine pest control, regular monitoring is being undertaken and in instances where damage to seedlings is observed ongoing control work will continue.

No significant issues with disease have been observed. Low levels of Dothistroma needle blight infection is present on low lying areas of some properties.

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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