

Revegnet.au Reestablishment of Healthy Native Forest Stocking Levels Landholder Agreement

Revegnet.au has been developed to progress through a logical flow from definition of best management forest, re-forestation and revegetation practices, mapping and risk assessment of priority areas, the improvement in skill and capacity building of landholders, developing property management plans and the implementation of those plans via an incentive program for on ground works. These works will include linking fragmented vulnerable habitat/forest systems and improving the health, ground cover and productivity of overstocked regrowth forests. High priority areas are broadly identified as those areas with:

- Sodic and solodic soils (*usually duplex soils with highly dispersible characteristics leading to major erosion forces with any exposure to soil substrates*)
- Hillslopes (*increased erosion forces, particularly those associated with sodic and solodic soils where these forces are compounded.*)
- Increasing forest cover (*Intergration of Grazing Land Management and Forest productivity enhancement leading to more economic and environmental sustainable land management systems*)
- Establishing revegetation connected to endangered ecosystems(*to ameliorate land degradation, soil acidification and increase essential habitat connectivity. Emphasis is on riparian communities to enhance water quality outcomes and connectivity with endangered regional ecosystem, such as brigalow and semi- evergreen vine thickets etc*)
- Vegetation Communities adversely affected by Fire (*Improved scheduling of fire cycles reduces soil damage and improves environmental systems*)

Management Plans are a prerequisite to any funding under this project:

- 1. Management plans for each landholder will focus on the implementation of work to address the project priorities as listed above.**
- 2. These management plans underpin the allocation of any incentive funding and work plans which support on ground change.**
- 3. All onground work supported by incentive funding will be audited for this signed agreement.**
- 4. It is a requirement of the project that ‘Caring for our Country’ sponsors receive quantitative and qualitative reports based on GIS data.**

The project delivers GIS mapping and on ground assistance to quantify and qualify the vegetation condition on a property scale. Data interpretation will identify the property project parameters, specifically those that align with the landscape scale high priority areas outlined.

Incentives for on-ground work include rehabilitating overstocked regrowth forests to raise ground cover. Revegetating drainage lines, strategic revegetation and plantation development to stabilise cleared slopes in high risk sodic soils to combat acidification and salinity are also included.

Thinning of heavily overstocked regrowth forest areas improves both biodiversity through rehabilitation of forest structure, increases groundcover to reduce erosion and increases productivity. High stocking levels not only impact on groundcover and biodiversity but also on individual tree health with the resultant diminished crown health and a rise in susceptibility to pathogens, insect attack and general decay further impacting on productivity. This requires reducing tree stocking to 100 - 150 stems/ha greater than 20 cm dbh. Stocking rates in unmanaged /overstocked forests have typically thickened to a range between 400 - 1000 stems/ha.

Reducing the stocking rate is usually best achieved by working through the stand and paint marking the trees to retain on the basis of tree health, form and spacing. A stocking rate of 120 stems /ha for trees greater than 20 cm dbh relates to approximately 8 x 8m spacing. Additionally, about a quarter of that number are maintained in the <20cm dbh range. Any tree not required for stocking is then chemically injected. **Any thinning operation within Remnant Vegetation and Regrowth (mapped coloured areas) must work within the constraints of the Code of Practice for Native Forest Management on Freehold Land and abide by the management plan and work plan completed by the landholder as a prerequisite to participating in the program. Forest Practice notifications are made free of charge to DERM. This notification must be in place before work commences.**

To achieve an economical and effective result, chemical stem injection is recommended, utilizing either contractor tree selection or paint marking for retention. Paint marking for retention gives a higher quality end result as the tree marking operator with specific skills in tree selection marks the trees, ensuring all the criteria for selection are met. The painted trees are very obvious to the contractor and it is easy to see the retained trees as the contractor works. This practice also ensures that correct retention rates are maintained. Contractor selection is more difficult in very thick timber as it is not easily apparent which trees have been injected and which haven't. Fire should be excluded for at least 12 months before and after this form of operation.

Tree Injection Methodology

This information is provided as a guide only and is per chemical manufacturer's specifications. Using either a Tordon® axe or long handled tomahawk, make cuts through the bark and into the wood at 12 cm centres around the stem. The herbicide mix is then immediately applied into each pocket using a calibrated sheep drench gun and backpack (1 ml of mixture for trees with a base diameter under 25cm and 2 mls for any larger trees). **Herbicide Mixes**

- ❖ Tordon® DSH (double strength), Using a 1: 4 Tordon water mix (DOW Woody Weed Control Guide)
- ❖ Glyphosate (Round-up 450), Using a 1: 3 Glyphosate : water mix

Landholder Details		
Contact Person		
Address		
Ph / mobile		
Email		
ABN – or indicate statement of supplier arrangement intended		GST registered Y / N
Project Address		
Total Project Value		
CQFA Cash Contribution (ex GST)		

Project Location	
Catchment(s)	
Subcatchment(s)	
Local Government Area(s)	
Point – Lot Plan AND/OR	
Point – GPS / map (<i>easting, northing in MGA94</i>)	

Special agreement conditions

Term

Commencement date for the agreed onground activity works project is 1st June 2011 and the completion date 30th June 2012, unless earlier terminated, or extended by mutual agreement.

Onground Works

The Landholder themselves, via their agents, consultants or contractors agrees to undertake the following silvicultural thinning onground works activities in compliance with the Queensland code applying to a native forest practice on freehold land and as agreed by Central Queensland Forest Association.

Maintenance

The Landholder agrees with the concept of sustainable forest management and to carry out maintenance where possible of onground works activity achieved through this project and agreed forest management plan for 10 years.

Promotion

The Landholder will provide Central Queensland Forest Association with reasonable access to 'the project' for the purposes of promoting and demonstrating onground work activities if required.

Request for access may include; promotional activities, field days, farm walks, monitoring and evaluation, and will only be conducted with prior agreement gained by Central Queensland Forest Association from the Landholder.

The Landholder agrees for Central Queensland Forest Association to take and use photographs, video or audio of the project for education and or promotional activities.

Project Variation

Central Queensland Forest Association may terminate this agreement by providing written notice to the Landholder on a Variation Form.

The Landholder may submit a variation form to change the agreed activities to Central Queensland Forest Association within thirty (30) days for approval.

Incentive Payments

Upon signing an onground works activity agreement with Central Queensland Forest Association, for an incentive payment of \$75/hectare (GST inc) on an agreed number of hectares, a 30% initial payment to the Landholder can be claimed via submitting a contractor tax invoice to Central Queensland Forest Association. Payment will be made via electronic transfer – please include bank account details on the tax invoice.

After satisfying Central Queensland Forest Association of completion of the onground work activities as agreed, the final 70% payment to the landholder can be claimed via submitting a tax invoice. Payment will be made by electronic transfer.

Note: all onground works activities as agreed must be completed by 23rd June 2013 or earlier and cannot be extended due to the project funding constraints.

A final inspection by Central Queensland Forest Association of the completed works is

required before final payment can be made.

If the whole or any part of the agreed onground works is not completed as per the agreement between Central Queensland Forest Association or its agents and the Landholder, a full or part refund may be required to be made by the Landholder.

Central Queensland Forest Association may, at its absolute discretion require the Landholder to repay any of the funds to Central Queensland Forest Association or its agents if Central Queensland Forest Association is reasonably satisfied the funds have been used otherwise than in accordance with the terms of this agreement.

Insurance

The Landholder or its agents shall be given a copy of the current Public Liability insurance of \$10 million held by any consultants or contractors it engages for any onground works. If the Landholder elects to perform the work, it is agreed that the Landholder has Public Liability - \$10 million insurance cover. **The signing of this Agreement verifies that the insurance cover is in place.**

Compliance With Laws

The Landholder or agents must comply and ensure similarly that any consultants or contractors comply with the requirements of all Acts of Parliament of the Commonwealth and the State of Queensland and all ordinances, regulations, by-laws, order and proclamations made or issued under any such Act or Ordinance and with the lawful requirements of public, local or other authorities in any way affecting or applicable to the Agreement.

Liability And Indemnity

The landholder shall be responsible for:

The loss or damage to plant, equipment, tools or motor vehicles and other personal property whilst implementing any onground work activities under this agreement.

For any third party claims, death or injury risks resulting from the onground works agreement howsoever caused and should affect all necessary insurance in respect to those risks or claims.

The Landholder will indemnify Central Queensland Forest Association and it's agents against all claims, losses, damages and other liabilities arising from or relating to the above items.

Conflict Of Interest

The Landholder warrants that, to the best of his knowledge, he does not and is not likely to have any conflict of interest in the performance of this Agreement.

Outputs To Be Delivered

The Landholder agrees to deliver the following list of agreed outputs relevant to this project

Table 1: Project Outputs

	Outcome	Measure	Output
Planning	Develop a native forest management plan	Property plan developed	1
Onground Works	Silviculturally thin native forest in compliance with the Queensland code applying to a native forest practice on freehold land or as agreed with Central Queensland Forest Association or it's agents.	Agreed area of silviculturally thinned native forest in compliance with the Queensland code applying to a native forest practice on freehold land or as agreed with Central Queensland Forest Association or it's agents,	ha

Signed _____	Signed _____
Name:	(insert responsible entity)
Date	

20. Additional Information - *List or attach additional information e.g. expanded project description; technical report(soils, vegetation); map showing proposed area of work (cadastral or image or topo); full project budget and costings, etc...*

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