

Forest Owners Conference Plantation Design Guidelines



AUSPINE LIMITED



ForestrySA



Hancock
Victorian
Plantations
Pty Limited



TREECORP GROUP
FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



Green Triangle
Forest Products



HARDWOOD
MANAGEMENT LTD



Woakwine



AKD SOFTWOODS



MIDWAY AFFORESTATION LIMITED

PREAMBLE

The Forest Owners Conference (FOC) is an industry group made up of twelve major plantation owners and three fire fighting agencies in the Green Triangle Region. The Green Triangle region is the largest tree farming region in Australia with approximately 300,000 ha of land managed primarily for the production of plantation timber products.

Since 1979 members have met annually to discuss fire issues of mutual interest and have developed well coordinated fire prevention protocols and wildfire response procedures. Accordingly, FOC members form an integral part of the community fire suppression resources. Collectively the plantation companies contribute over 60 fire tankers and 260 personnel to the region's fire fighting resources.

In 1986 the FOC drew on its collective fire fighting experience to develop Australia's first cross border plantation design guidelines. A feature of the guidelines is their simplicity and clarity. In response to the renewed interest in plantations within the region, the guidelines have been reviewed for the 5th time in 2002 and represented in their current format.

These guidelines have stood the test of time. Since their adoption by FOC members in 1986, these guidelines, along with other fire prevention measures have contributed to the reduction of plantation area lost in fires to less than 0.1% per annum.

Ruth Ryan
Chairperson, Forest Owners Conference.
Dated 11 November 2003



Figure 1 - A 4 year old blue gum plantation

FOREST OWNER GUIDELINES

1. Firebreaks

- 1.1 A firebreak is an effectively fuel-reduced area, which may include non-flammable strip(s), primarily managed to retard or prevent the spread of fire.
- 1.2 All plantations need an external boundary firebreak, this shall consist of either
 - A 20m wide break (external to the plantation), or
 - A 10m wide break (external to the plantation), plus a 10m fuel modified zone (within the plantation).
 - Pruning is a commonly used fuel modification technique throughout the Plantation Industry.
- 1.3 A firebreak shall incorporate a vehicular access track (as specified in 2.1 to 2.4)
- 1.4 Adjacent land, which may include that of another land holder and which is maintained in an effectively fuel reduced or bared condition, may form part of an external firebreak.
- 1.5 Large plantations should generally be divided into units, not exceeding 400ha, by firebreaks as defined in 1.2 above.



Figure 2 – An example of firebreak

2. Vehicular Access – For Fire Trucks

- 2.1 All access tracks shall, where possible be a minimum of 7m wide to allow for the simultaneous access of two fire trucks. Pruning may be required to achieve a minimum clearance for fire truck access to 7m in width and 4m in height.
- 2.2 Vehicular access tracks shall where practicable, enclose individual plantation units of such dimensions that a hose lay can reach any point in the unit. Generally units will not exceed 40ha in size.
- 2.3 All access tracks shall, if possible, be aligned to provide straight through access at junctions.
- 2.4 If dead end tracks are necessary, they must be sign-posted and a turnaround provided.



Figure 3 – Fire truck access along fire breaks

3. Set-back of plantation edge from habitable dwellings

- 3.1 Set-back of plantation edge from habitable dwellings existing at the time of initial plantation development shall generally be a minimum of 50m

Planning requirements can differ from these guidelines. Refer to local planning organisations for specific set-backs.



Figure 4 – Plantation setback from Nangwarry

GENERAL

The above guidelines are to be viewed as additional to State and Federal Government requirements and in some cases Local Government requirements.

For example - E.T.S.A. specifications for plantation clearance from transmission lines in S.A., and those in Victoria

These guidelines have been reviewed and agreed upon by the Forest Owners Conference since 1986. They were last reviewed and ratified on the 15th May 2002.

Plantation Grower Members of the Forest Owners Conference are:

- AKD Softwoods
- Auspine Ltd
- ForestrySA
- Great Southern Plantations Ltd
- Green Triangle Forest Products Ltd
- Hancock Victorian Plantations Pty Ltd
- Hardwood Management Ltd
- Integrated Tree Cropping Ltd
- Midway Afforestation Ltd
- Timbercorp Ltd
- Treecorp Pty Ltd
- Woakwine Group



Figure 5 – A 2 year old blue gum plantation

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