Tree Alliance by Private Forests Tasmania

Case Study 08
Agroforestry

Integrated Farm Forestry Demonstration Site – Rd 1.

The Back Run

Ellendale, Central Highlands

At a Glance

Owner
Tom and Sarah Clark

Property Size
Ellendale property 205ha
Westerway, own/manage approx. 780ha

Enterprise
Sheep, cattle and brassica seed crops

Rainfall
650-700mm average rainfall

Soil types
Coarse sand over clay

Key Points

- The importance of species selection
- Trees deliver multiple benefits
- Carbon credits
- Shelterbelts for agricultural productivity
- Aesthetic benefits of trees in the landscape

About

The Back Run is one of the seven successful Round 1 Integrated Farm Forestry Demonstration Sites receiving grant funding to develop landscape scale best practice forestry plantings on their properties at Westerway and Ellendale.

In 2021, a 35ha area was planted with 37,600 open rooted Pinus Radiata seedlings sourced from Lanoma Forest Nursery. This planting replaced part of a poorly performing Eucalyptus nitens plantation and is predominantly a woodlot area with some shelterbelts around areas that are being returned to paddocks from *E.nitens*.

A planned 4ha Pinus Radiata shelterbelt and additional 10ha woodlot using open rooted seedlings will also be established on rough greenfield areas. The area has been ripped, received weed control and is expected to be planted in July 2022.

Carbon Farming

To maximise the benefits of the trees, the Clark's have enlisted the services of Midway Tasmania and Climate Friendly to potentially receive an early income from carbon farming as well as a longer-term income from sustainable forest products.

The first source of income will potentially come from the value of the carbon stored by the trees as they grow generating carbon offsets and the second source of income from the value of the forest products at harvest time.

The Clark's have successfully received a project through the Australian Government Clean Energy Regulator, Emission Reduction Fund plantation methodology. Through harvesting their ex *E.nitens* plantation and establishing *P.radiata* they were able to successfully demonstrate their project was eligible for Schedule 2 of the plantation methodology.

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2021 WOODLOT PLANTING - progress to date, June 2022

Site:
- Part planted on former *E. nitens* plantation

Site preparation:
- Helicopter aerial spray in March 2021
- Follow-up spot spraying where required, March 2022

Planting date:
- Planted 21 – 26 July 2021

Planting:
- Open rooted *P. radiata* seedlings supplied by Lanoma Forest Nursery
- *E. nitens* cleared and logged, *P. radiata* planted between stumps for second rotation
- Seedlings were spade planted by Forest Planters Silvicultural crew, Derwent Valley
- Planters did a good job of pushing into uncultivated ground

Species and area:
- *P. radiata* – 35 hectares

Stocking:
- 1,045 stems per hectare
- 37,600 seedlings

Survival rate:
- 92% trees survival count as at 3 November 2021
- Heavy browsing damage around perimeter but not significant

Challenges:
- Browsing along the perimeter has caused some survival loses

Planned management:
- Pruning and thinning yet to be determined
- Refill to occur in July 2022

2022 PLANNED PLANTING

Shelterbelts and woodlot area on rough pasture hill

Site:
- To be planted on greenfield (ex-pasture)

Site preparation:
- Ripped to maximise soil moisture potential.
- Sprayed for weed control

Proposed planting date:
- July 2022

Planting:
- Open rooted *P. radiata* seedlings supplied by Lanoma Forest Nursery

Species and area:
- *P. radiata* – 4 ha (shelterbelts)
- *P. radiata* – 10 ha (woodlot)