



CLELAND MANAGEMENT PTY LTD  
ABN 40 857 971 229

## CLELAND

23 Albert Street  
Windsor Victoria 3181  
Australia

Telephone 0419 116 731  
Facsimile 03 9510 0939  
Email m.cleland@bigpond.com

# NTT MAHOGANY PROJECT

## Elderslie

### Property Inspection Report–5 August 2009

#### Abstract

The property was previously inspected in March 2009 at which time the project was progressing quite well after a change in weed control practices. It was observed that there was need for further attention to the area that was burnt out in 2007.

This inspection was undertaken at a time to coincide with this years pruning activities.

#### Summary

**There is a great deal of work being carried out on the Elderslie plantations this dry season. The work is centred on pruning both the 2005 and 2006 plantings. Pruning can not turn bad trees to productive ones but shaping trees highlights the productive ones. There is now an indication that sound sawlog volumes may be achieved on this property.**

#### **2005 Planting 144 ha [2004 Growers]**

These trees are now approaching 4 years old. Most trees are in excess of 8 meters tall and more than 40 cm through at the butt.

#### Pruning

The trees have been pruned on two previous occasions. The two earlier prunings were aimed at removing branching limbs to as high as was possible while retaining a strong canopy. This years pruning is more severe and the trees are being shaped to 6 meters where their form and height will allow.

The current pruning activity is conducted in two or three passes through the plantation.

- In the first pass low branching limbs and bifurcated stems are removed with a chainsaw to a height of about 2.5 to 3 meters. The chainsaw operator is working from the ground.
- The second pass removes branches to a height of approximately 6 meters. The chainsaw operator works from a purpose built structure on top of a vehicle.
- Where the trees are high enough a cherry picker is used to remove higher limbs.

Where the trees are of very poor shape they are only roughly trimmed to allow vehicle access between the rows. These trees will be culled in the future.

A consequence of the pruning will be a proliferation of new side shoots which will be removed within the next 6 to 9 months.

#### Tree Form

The tree form for this planting is varied and is probably a consequence of the seed provenance. A number of the trees are forming an umbrella like crown at 4 to 5 meters. These trees are impractical to shape and will only produce trunks of 5 to 6 meters in length. The plantation will be thinned in 2 years time and it is likely that these trees are the ones that will be culled.

#### Overview of the 2005 planting

The progress of the 2005 planting is encouraging and, although it is not uniform, it is showing improved consistency and is indicating a significant capacity to grow timber. The plantation will look a bit hacked about for the next 6 to 9 months but should then start to look like a forest capable of producing sawlogs.

### **2006 Planting 251 ha [2005 Growers]**

#### Pruning

The 2006 planting covers a number of blocks, all of which will be pruned during the current dry season for the second time.

Some of the blocks have already had the lower limbs and bifurcated stems removed and await further treatment. Much of the pruning of these trees can be made with pruning shears rather than chainsaws. This is a speedier process. This planting will be pruned more aggressively to promote the desired shape and form as early as possible.

The area burnt in November 2007 is now starting to improve but will continue to require considerable attention including specific weed control, additional fertiliser and tree shaping.

#### Overview of the 2006 planting

This planting overall is an improvement on the first with higher density of trees. It has had the benefit of better weed control which is the product of the experience gained in the first year of the Project.

There is a big work load to complete during this dry season and, subject to the work been completed quickly and the weed control being executed to a high standard, this planting will continue to develop well in the 2009/2010 year.

Malcolm Cleland  
6 August 2009





