



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 31 January - 1 February 2011**

#### **ABSTRACT**

On the 22 November 2010 the services of the Khaya Timber Group Ltd as Operations Manager of the NTT Timber Projects were terminated. This company was previously NTT Management Ltd and operated by Mr Greg and Mrs Dayle Hooker.

Since then the task of managing and progressing the Projects has reverted to the Responsible Entity and their Responsible Manager, Malcolm Cleland.

The Responsible Manager engaged the services of a fully competent and experienced forestry manager Mr Kevin McDougall to undertake an appropriate works program on the Elderslie plantation. Mr Mc Dougall is the principal contractor for the Elders ITC Teak forests in the region and is based on Mt Roy Station about 6 km from Elderslie. His main task at Elderslie is the spraying of the plantation and its surrounds to limit the build up of weedy growth which otherwise would represent a serious fire hazard.

The main purpose of this inspection was to:

- a. check and report on the progress of the works program, and
- b. to discuss the security of the property with the local Police.

Further appointments were made with the municipal council and regional water authorities to discuss roads and irrigation licences. As a consequence of the Cyclone alert posted 1 February 2011 these meetings with the Dept of Primary Industry and Sun Water were cancelled.

#### **SUMMARY**

##### **Project Works-**

- The weed control program is progressing
- The work to date is of a very high standard
- The spray program is behind schedule as a consequence of showery weather
- The slashing of the driveways and spraying of boundaries has yet to be done.
- Agreement has been reached on rates of pay for future work.
- Boundary fencing and maintenance is to be undertaken

I am confident that Mr McDougall, assisted by his wife, will execute the Project works program to a very high standard. Their forestry experience, especially in the region,

is far superior to all previous staff engaged at this property and the Project will benefit from this knowledge.

### **Security-**

Local Queensland Police report that they are aware of the security issues at Elderslie and also the somewhat complex relationships that have developed between neighbours adjoining the property. Their comments indicate that the tension between these neighbours was heightened at the time the Hookers role was terminated.

## **INSPECTION**

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

#### **Driveway**

Approximately 50% of this area has been sprayed. In much of the planting canopy closure has been achieved and weed cover is low.



**Hoods Block 131 ha**

This block has yet to be sprayed.



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

**Airstrip**



This planting has been sprayed and die off is progressing well.



Remediation of the 13 ha burnt in 2007 is progressing and a pruning program to address this area will be required this winter.



The 6 ha of trees of no commercial value are still standing. They will be removed after the wet.

### **Sickle Pod**



The block was the first sprayed and is an excellent job.

### **South**



The 34 ha block planted in 2006 adjoining the house has about 4 ha yet to be sprayed

## Robbs Folly



Has two high density blocks on the south east of Elderslie – 19ha and 11 ha respectively, the smaller block is yet to be sprayed

### Observation and Comment

The previous management used high rates of the general herbicide Roundup as the basis of the Project weed control. Volumes of up to 8 lt per ha were regularly used. Mr McDougal is spraying at a rate of 4 lt per ha + 200 ml Lontrol for equivalent or better results. This is a significant reduction in cost and a more responsible use of chemical. Mr McDougal's work rate is slower than anticipated as he will only spray under favourable weather conditions. This approach is to be encouraged provided that the work is not too severely delayed from the scheduled time for the best weed control. This issue has been discussed with him.

The Elderslie house (shown below) is unoccupied and receiving no maintenance



Malcolm Cleland  
2 February 2011