

# Green Triangle Treefarm Project

## Second Rotation Coppice Management Requirements



Government  
of South Australia



ForestrySA



Tasmanian Bluegum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) is the species selected as being the best hardwood for growing in plantations in the Green Triangle Region. It is a fast growing, high yielding eucalypt, ideal for pulpwood production. The Green Triangle Region has good soils, high rainfall, cool summers and mild winters - conditions that are particularly suitable for the growing of Tasmanian Bluegum in short rotations of 10-12 years.

Tasmanian Bluegum Coppice shoots reliably and vigorously. Coppice regeneration is used widely overseas and potentially provides better early growth, reduced costs and reduced time between harvests. The main advantage of coppice is the substantial pre-existing root system that sustains rapid early growth.

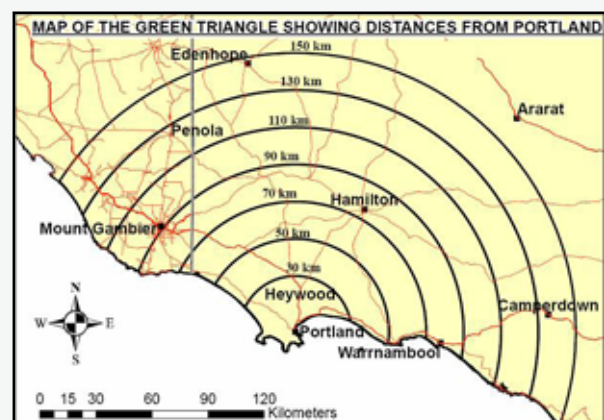
### The Project and Agreement

The Second Rotation Coppice Agreement is very similar to the Green Triangle Treefarm Grower Agreement, with a few minor changes regarding silvicultural requirements and earlier harvest age. Most of the costs associated with plantation establishment will not be incurred when

managing plantations under a coppice regime. However, regeneration by coppice can be quite variable and requires thinning.

To be eligible to join the Green Triangle Treefarm Project Coppice Agreement, growers should preferably have at least 20 hectares of 2nd rotation coppice and undertake thinning operations that will meet the following requirements

- > By the end of the fourth contract year there must be:
  - > between 800 and 1100 live stems/ha,
  - > no more than 1 main stem / stump<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Windy/ exposed sites can be thinned to two main stems at age 2 then to one main stem/ stump a year later (please see text on page 2).

# Green Triangle Tree Farm Project

## Second Rotation Coppice Management Requirements



Government  
of South Australia



ForestrySA

The plantation must also be within a radius of 150km of Portland.

These requirements ensure that the coppice crop is managed, to control the size and number of stems which require harvesting.

Typically, each stump will generate from one to six large and apparently stable shoots. To achieve the number of stems specified within the agreement, the majority of stumps will need to be thinned to one single stem/ stump.

Replanting seedlings to make up the stocking deficit is not an option, as they cannot compete with rapid initial coppice growth.

To guard against wind damage, coppice can be thinned in two stages, taking it to 2 stems per stump at around age 2, then down to one stem a year later. Most growers however take the risk and thin to 1 stem per stump at age 2. Caution needs to be used to ensure that new coppice which grows following thinning does not grow larger than the main stems selected initially.

It is estimated that this can be done for anywhere between \$500-1100/ha<sup>2</sup>. This operation can be done with a chainsaw, brush cutter, pruning shears or axe. ForestrySA is currently favouring chainsaws to carry out this work.

The joint venturers- Mitsui & Co Ltd. and Nippon Paper Treefarm Australia Pty Ltd guarantee to buy the timber at the end of the rotation and the growers guarantee to sell the timber to the joint venturers. The joint venturers are already established as exporters of woodchip through Portland to Japan.

The pricing scheme used is arranged between the joint venturers and the grower at the time of signing up.

ForestrySA develop management plans and monitor the growth and health of the plantations. The costs of harvesting and transport to Portland are borne by the joint venturers, as are services provided by ForestrySA.

### Harvesting

In 2006 Mitsui and Nippon Paper Treefarm began harvesting and exporting plantation Bluegum woodchip from the Green Triangle Region through a newly completed woodchip export facility at the Port of Portland.

In total approximately 75,000 GMT of Bluegum plantation woodchips were exported from Portland in 2006. This marks the start of an ongoing export program for plantation grown Bluegum. This is planned to increase to 200,000 GMT in 2007 and increase further in excess of 800,000 tonnes per year over the next few years as existing plantations mature.

Woodchip supplied from Portland will be used in the manufacture of high quality coated papers at a number of pulp mills in Japan. Plantation Bluegum is valued by paper manufactures for its high fibre yield and environmental sustainability.



For more information on new, retrospective or coppice grower agreements, check out the ForestrySA website [www.forestrysa.sa.gov.au](http://www.forestrysa.sa.gov.au) or contact the GTP Coordinator (08) 8724 2888.

<sup>2</sup> Highly variable; depends on site, size and number of coppice

