Albany Plantation Forest Company

PLANTATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

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ATTACHMENTS
1. Plantation Area Summary
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1. Introduction
Albany Plantation Forest Company Ltd (APFL) is the Responsible Entity for the establishment, maintenance and harvest of Eucalyptus globulus plantations for the production of woodchips to be processed into wood fibre for paper manufacture.

This generic Management Plan covers APFL plantations that are established in the Lower Great Southern region of Western Australia together with the Remnant Native Vegetation (RNV) that APFL has management responsibility for. At July 2017 the total plantation area was 13 547.9 ha, with ‘other than plantation’ land categories totalling 2304.2 ha combined. In the traditional sense, plantations are comprised of planting years with plantings in compartments and this is the case for APFL, although compartments are identified as properties.

Much of the management information is contained within supporting documents, and or within other management systems such as APFL’s Geographic Information System, its internal website or ‘Intranet’ and its Risk Management System, for which references are given.

The Plan is reviewed in March each year, in preparation for the new Japanese financial year, to update objectives and procedures and statistical information and is extended to incorporate recent plantings or replacement coppice crops.

Property specific information is gathered during property inspections, is held on separate property files and used to compile operational schedules to ensure that all management actions are planned and reflect site specific needs.

2. Scope and Forest Resources Being Managed
APFL plantations are established in the Lower Great Southern region of Western Australia. They consist of Eucalyptus globulus plantings that are grown over a relatively short ten year rotation to produce woodchips for the eventual manufacture of paper. Eucalyptus globulus is the preferred species for several reasons that are outlined in the APFL position paper1 Why Eucalyptus globulus?

In total the plantation area is 16 245.7 ha over many properties throughout the region. Land is either owned freehold or secured by legal agreements utilising a variety of financial arrangements.

Plantation management begins with an assessment of potentially plantable areas and covers all activities from establishment to harvest, and re-establishment or rehabilitation to agriculture following harvest.

3. Management Objectives
APFL’s overall management objectives are:

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1 APFL Position Papers can be viewed on the APFL intranet (see Policies and Position Papers).
Establishment
To establish an initial E. globulus plantation of 20,000 ha over a ten year period, utilising a variety of land acquisition tools, within an economic haul distance of the export port of Albany.

Management
To manage the plantation on a ten year rotation cycle and conserve and / or restore representative samples of Remnant Native Vegetation (RNV) within the estate.

Maintenance
To maintain all plantings in a safe and healthy condition, free of damaging agents and sufficiently vigorous to return a profit.

Harvest and Manufacture
To commence harvest in 2001 and aim to produce 400,000 GMT logs per annum, to be processed into woodchips by and exported through Albany Plantation Export Company (APEC). Logs are supplied from APFL to APEC and the remainder from other growers in the region.

Export
To transport woodchips by rail to the Port of Albany for ship loading by Albany Bulk Handling (ABH).

Regeneration
To regenerate harvested areas, predominantly by coppice for a second rotation of about ten years.

4. Land Use, Ownership Status, Socio-economic Conditions and Adjacent Lands
The majority of land used for plantation establishment is agricultural land owned by individual farmers. The plantations themselves are owned by APFL under a Deed of Grant of Profit a Prendre agreement and simple Lease Agreement, although some land is owned outright (see attachment 1 for area summary).

Albany Plantation Forest Company Limited is a wholly owned company of the Oji Paper Co. Ltd, Senshukai Co Ltd and Nippon Yusen Kaisha (NYK) group of companies, all being Japanese. Land owners have an agreement with APFL for a period of at least twenty years to cover an original rotation (10 years) and one coppice rotation following harvest.

Tree plantations are one of many rural land uses in the Lower Great Southern Region and properties are mostly surrounded by other rural land supporting a variety of rural enterprise. APFL is sensitive to its neighbour’s needs, has a policy (Neighbour and Community Relations) and liaises regularly to maintain a spirit of cooperation and goodwill.
The socio-economic impacts of plantations are addressed in the APFL position paper *Socio-economic Impact of Euc globulus Plantations*.

5. **Plantation Silviculture and Operational Prescriptions**

Plantation silviculture begins with the initial property assessment where site productivity is assessed and appropriate genetic material is recommended.

Establishment and ongoing maintenance operations follow the *Code of Practice for Timber Plantations in WA* and APFL has a suite of operational prescriptions that specify in more detail how each is implemented. Other supporting manuals cover such things as use of chemicals, and occupational health and safety.

Plantings are expected to reach maturity at between ten and twelve years when they will be clear-felled and suitability for a second coppice rotation assessed. Almost the entire APFL estate is now in its second rotation and the second contractual harvest schedule has commenced.

The environmental impacts of APFL’s activities are also identified and it is systematic and thorough in how it addresses these matters. Impact assessments are facilitated through a Risk Management System (RMS) that is based on the international standard ISO 14001 (see 7.1 below).

6. **Plantation Growth and Yield**

6.1. **Inventory**

Plantation inventory, growth modelling and yield projections are based on both permanent and temporary sample plots.

6.2. **Harvest**

APFL has a strategic harvest plan that is based on conservative volume projections and is regularly reviewed as inventory data is updated.

*A Harvest Schedule* is prepared covering 2 years of operations. Plantation harvest follows a clear-fall prescription and generally operates in successive establishment years as they reach rotation age.

Planning for harvest takes account of the usual variables of planting year areas, growth rates, and seasonality of properties, access routes and distance from processing facilities. It smooths harvesting rates across planting years to match annual market targets.

7. **Environmental Safeguards**

7.1. **Significant Aspects**

All environmental aspects of APFL activities have been identified and rated for significance and those that have the potential to adversely affect the environment are managed to restrict their impact on it to within contemporary community limits. The list and ratings can be seen in the *Aspect Register* (RMS).
Fire is one of the more significant aspects being managed and details of the program can be seen in the *Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan for Wildfire* (RMS). Further, the property *Fire Management Plan* is also prepared and supplied to local government authorities to meet statutory requirements (see property files).

7.2. Operational Objectives and Procedures

Operational objectives for each significant and other aspect being managed can be identified from the *Aspect Summary* (RMS) and their detail, including targets, seen in the *Summary of Objectives and Targets* (RMS). Operational procedures for implementing these objectives are identified in the *Register of Environmental Management Programs* (RMS).

7.3. Management of Remnant Native Vegetation (RNV)

Properties owned and leased by APFL are registered under the *Land for Wildlife* program of the Department of Parks and Wildlife. This program:

- Identifies areas of RNV suitable to be managed for their natural values;
- Advises on the best opportunities to enhance indigenous wildlife;
- Provides expert recommendations for ongoing management.

APFL has utilised the reports and their recommendations to prepare individual management plans for the RNV of each property and will implement the plans and monitor the progress on the objectives outlined in them.

Details of the program, individual property reports and RNV Management Plans can be seen in the APFL Intranet.

7.4. High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF)

APFL recognises the importance of protecting HCVF and undertakes ongoing stakeholder consultation to determine local HCVF and develop procedures for their identification, assessment and protection. APFL will continue to liaise with key stakeholders and seek input to ensure that the development of these management guidelines meets community expectations.

8. Monitoring

8.1. Progress on Objectives

Plantation Management Plan objectives and other Plan elements are reviewed annually according to the operational procedure *Plantation Management Planning*.

All environmental objectives are monitored and reported on and detail of these programs is identified in the *Monitoring and Measurement* and *Management Review* procedures of the RMS respectively.

8.2. Community Concerns

APFL is aware of concern expressed by the community regarding its plantation activities and has explored the question in a position paper titled *Socio*
economic Impact of Euc globulus Plantations. This paper will be updated periodically as new data becomes available.

APFL has a policy regarding community liaison *(Neighbour and Community Relations)* and is continuing to consult regularly with neighbours and with other interested parties as and when required. APFL also continues to be actively involved with community and industry groups that are working toward better plantation management.

8.3. Scientific Developments

APFL recognises the importance of being aware of new developments in all areas of plantation and environmental management. It is an active member of the Forest Industries Federation of Western Australia (FIFWA).

APFL was also an active member of the industry collaborative initiative, the CRC for Forestry, being involved in all research programmes through its core membership affiliations. Since the demise of the CRC on 30 June 2012, APFL has been active within surviving and new initiatives for industry collaboration, including the long running Industry Pest Management Group and the Herbicide Consortium.

APFL also subscribes to relevant periodicals and journals.

When specialist professional skills are required, consultants are engaged on an ‘as required’ basis and local stakeholders also provide an important avenue of consultation.

8.4. Water

Water quality and availability has become a major national issue and there is community expectation that land managers are aware of the impacts their activities are having on these values.

APFL is sensitive to these concerns and has additional obligations through its FSC certification. In 2007 it commenced a long term monitoring programme by engaging the University of WA’s Centre of Excellence in Natural Resource Management and utilising cutting edge monitoring techniques in a chosen representative catchment. The results of this monitoring will be posted on the APFL external website or ‘Internet’ annually.

9. Management Resources

9.1. Trained Staff

In accordance with its Human Resources Policy, APFL employ staff who demonstrate experience and knowledge in plantation practices, among other things, and annually reviews performance. Formal training is provided when training requirements are identified in the employees Job Description and results of their annual performance review. Staff can access their position Job Description and the Training Register which are located on the Intranet.

9.2. Qualified Contractors
APFL will only award contracts for works and services to contractors who can show current accreditation in the field of work for which they have applied for. Any Federal, State or Local Government permits, licences or certificates legally required must be sighted before a contract is awarded. Contractors must also have a formal safety system or show that they are working towards obtaining one.

Preference will be given to contractors with a proven performance record and sound safety and environmental record. All contractors’ employees will be required to undertake APFL’s environmental induction prior to the commencement of work within APFL plantations.

**10. Public Information**

APFL acknowledges the need to keep the public informed of activities and details that may be of interest. The *Neighbour and Community Relations Policy* will guide the company in this area.

APFL will seek community feedback on issues of community importance by way of direct contact including public meetings, posted surveys and/or website feedback.

APFL will utilise its Internet to publicise various aspects of its operations as required by its FSC certification.

**11. Property Specific Information**

Considerations unique to each property, such as presence of rare and threatened species, cultural sites and/or declared weeds for example, are identified through use of the property reconnaissance forms *Pre-drill Site Inspection, Property Inspection* and *Harvest Plan*. The data gathered is used to update registers and the *Property Works* database for preparation of operational schedules.

Once collated, this data is also utilised to produce detailed Harvest Maps and later Operations Maps that include unique items for each property.

Given that the plantation is clear-felled, with no intermediate harvest, there is no need to record a history of cutting. Plans show original planting years and following harvest, the subsequent coppice crop is identified by the letter “C”.

APFL establishes and maintains plantations throughout the year and many of its activities are seasonal and dependent on tree age. The attached table *Calendar of Forestry Operations* (attachment 2) summarises the general frequency of activities according to plantation age.

**12. Management Plan Review**

Preparation and review of the *Plantation Management Plan* is done according to the operational procedure *Plantation Management Planning* which can be found on the APFL Intranet.
## Attachment 1
### PLANTATION AREA SUMMARY

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Area based on SGARA
## Attachment 2
### CALENDAR of FORESTRY OPERATIONS

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<tr>
<td>Insect control 2 (mature leaf pests)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Harvest</td>
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