

Native Vegetation Conservation Branch,
DEC,

RE: Bruce Rock Clearing Permit Application CPS 5478/1

Dear xxx,

I am writing in reference to some matters which were not mentioned in the original offset proposal for the above permit application, which you have brought to my notice.

I have attached a map with the revegetation areas to be done at different densities. It is very hard to know where we can get machinery in to improve the biodiversity of the land, but I will do my best to try to map it out for you.

Once the ripping has been done this year, revegetation will occur in the winter of 2014. The densities of 300 and 800 will depend on the level of remnant already existing, and our ability to access areas for ripping.

MONITORING:

Monitoring has been scheduled in the previous offset proposal. The method of monitoring will be to count the survival rate of seedlings in January 2015, and if necessary replant areas which did not survive at a rate of 75%. If a species mentioned in the offset proposal does not average the same survival ratios as other species it will not form part of the replanting/infilling programme for 2015, as it will have proved to be unsuitable for the job due to as yet unknown factors.

Monitoring methodology will involve walking rip lines where planting has occurred and counting dead seedlings in a particular row. This will be duplicated at various sites throughout the planting area. In areas that do not meet a 75% survival rate, the number of seedlings required to meet that rate will be ordered as infills.

Replanting will continue to occur annually until the 75% survival rate is achieved. Monitoring and if necessary, replanting will continue until June 30 2019.

WEED CONTROL:

Agricultural weeds are only a problem in the eastern section of our reserve and occur mostly in the area which will have 800 stems per hectare planted. An initial knock down spray will occur before planting, in those areas which are accessible by vehicle. Preparation of the rip lines will involve scalping also in these areas. With both these methods, weed control will occur for the first year. Once the seedlings are established, no further weed control will occur. The scalping will allow a 1 metre weed free environment for seedlings to establish.

Overspraying seedlings after establishment is, in my experience counterproductive to the health of the newly established seedlings. The trees themselves will eventually out compete the weeds. In the first two years I expect the weed density to reduce by 50%. I can monitor this by selecting two 10 x 10 quadrats. I will estimate the weed cover in percentage terms of ground covered before ripping activities and after for two years, until 2016. I am concerned that if I am forced into constant weed control, remnant annuals and perennial ground covers which do exist within the weedy areas, will also be eradicated and will lose the ability to compete with weeds once there is an overstory.

Eradicating weeds is not the motivation for weed control. It is designed to create a weed free environment for the successful establishment of the seedlings. It is impossible to eradicate agricultural weeds as the seed burden persists for so long. Weeds are also proliferate in adjacent land to which we have no legal access, and will reinvade constantly.

RUBBISH REMOVAL:

Throughout the tenure, small rubbish heaps and mounds have accumulated during nearly 100 years of settlement. We have undertaken to clean these rubbish spots up during 2013 through to June 30 2014. Areas where midden heaps and spoil

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from drainage work, tracks and so on will be smoothed over, or if containing rubbish removed with weedy overburden to a waste soil pit at Shackleton.

I hope this methodology is acceptable.

Regards:
Bruce Rock Shire.

Leads the Way

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