

Noosa Landcare's Farm Forestry Program
Case Study 2. - Pinbarren - Compiled by Gary Clarke and
Kaara Shaw



Like many properties in this shire that are presented to the staff of the Farm Forestry Program for total property management, Pinbarren has the following features:

- . Relatively small block (4.467 H + shire road easement)
- . Was predominantly cleared land with heavy weed
- . Had absentee landholders who desired to move to the property in the future
- . Encompasses a waterway
- . Suffered the negative ecological results of past land uses
- . Had present custodians looking for a management plan that delivered environmental benefits, moderate financial returns over time and became a lifestyle haven that they could manage themselves.
- . Concentrated financial inputs at the beginning of the project, producing a stable and dynamic landscape with low management inputs over time.
- . Major infrastructure required; roads, dams, drainage, etc.

Special features of the project included a council road easement which owners were prepared to fund the removal of 31 large camphor laurel clumps and revegetate with rainforest species. This part of the process required liaison with council to gain permission to remove the camphors, perform site preparation and revegetate council land. This was a sensible and simple process as council staff quickly recognised the community benefits and acknowledged the Farm Forestry programs record of experience and success with such projects.

The farm forestry team's management plan and operational plan was accepted by the clients and the transformation began.

This project encompassed the Farm Forestry Program's education and training program, and the free tree incentive program sponsored by Noosa Shire Council along with the program's consultancy and operational services to:

- . Reafforest $\frac{3}{4}$ of the total land
- . Appropriate placement and drainage of infrastructure
- . Create a sustainable landscape model that meets the landholder's aspirations and budget.

Operational Stages:

- 1) Clients attended Property Planning Workshop, Silvicultural Workshop and FF Bus Trip
- 2) Initial consultancy and property assessment

- 3) Draw up total property plan, operations schedule and preliminary budget
- 4) Consult with earthmoving contractors
- 5) Consult with council officers
- 6) Start clearing processes including herbicide treatment of camphor stumps
- 7) Dam construction:
 - . Design and peg
 - . Remove and stockpile topsoil
 - . Shape, drain and construct walls and spillway
 - . Replace top soil over whole construction



- 8) Push vegetation to areas not requiring immediate site preparation and out of the way of earthworks
- 9) Stabilise soil with cover crop of jap millet and carpet grass
- 10) Mark out other infrastructure, including extent of plantation areas, bay roads, boundary breaks, spillway filter zones, revegetation zones, major access road to house site, and drainage.
- 11) Mark out site preparation in plantation

zones, revegetation zones and amenity plantings

- 12) Carry out site preparation with excavator based spot ripping.
- 13) Tub mulch delivery coordinated
- 14) Tub mulch spreading with bob cat
- 15) Pre-plant herbicide application
- 16) Planting commencement, along with plantation mulching
- 17) Utilise bobcat to refine earthworks, final cut drainage lines and access tracks.
- 18) Organise permit to burn.
- 19) Burn and heap vegetation stacks and 'stick pick' paddocks.
- 20) Plant revegetation on dam surrounds and plant filter strips leading into dam and on overflow areas leading into waterways.

The key components that have led to a successful establishment phase;



- . The owner's sound vision for their land from the experience gleaned from the program's training series;
- . Wide skill base of FF staff;
- . Ability to communicate the processes from staff to contractors and back to landholders;
- . High skill and integrity levels from contractors;
- . Intense coordination of design and operational processes to gain maximum efficiency and results for the dollars;
- . Focus on total property management over long-term.

