
Latest update Restore Skyline Tier/Scamander Plantation

1 message

NE Bioregional Network <telozea_tas@yahoo.com.au>
To: astrid hunkeler <telozea_tas@yahoo.com.au>

8 July 2024 at 19:22

Hello everyone,

This is an update for those who left their contact details at the public meeting held at the St Helens Neighbourhood House Bungalow on the 24th of February regarding the proposed planting of pines behind Scamander and Beaumaris.

Firstly on Sunday the 28th of July there will be a gathering at 10am at the Surfside Hotel in Beaumaris to demonstrate community support for the full restoration of native forest in the coastal catchments between Wrinklers Lagoon and Dianas Basin. More details soon for this community led event.....

Before we discuss the latest developments regarding the proposed pine planting behind Scamander and Beaumaris, we just want to let everyone know that we now know that instead of sending an official representative to the February public meeting the author of the attached Timberlands Notice of Intents has communicated that a couple of people attended the public meeting recorded the whole meeting and passed it on to Timberlands.....and who knows may be receiving this email. We find this conduct to be very disappointing to say the least.

Moving on to the main purpose of this email. We have received four Notice of Intents from Timberlands (which are attached) flagging an intention to establish over 300ha of Radiata Pine plantation in the coastal catchments of Dianas Basin, Crockers Arm, Reedy Creek, Yarmouth Creek, Freshwater Creek and Wrinklers Creek/Lagoon. We have added some photos of areas proposed for replanting to pines in each catchment showing the excellent native forest regeneration occurring in these areas. To be clear not all of the areas planned for replanting to pines are recovering as well as the forests depicted but all of the 300ha plus pine replant areas can be restored to native forest with the right practices as has been successfully demonstrated over the past 15 years.

As you will see the Notice of Intents are all seeking feedback on how the "proposed operations" may "impact you, your neighbours or your local community". As such it is vitally important that as many people as possible respond to this and register their support for the full restoration of the coastal catchment between Wrinklers Lagoon and Dianas Basin back to native forest.

Points that could be mentioned in your response could include the following (feel free though to just speak from the heart as well)

*Inadequate timeframe to respond to Notice of Intent.

*There is no social licence for this operation as the vast majority of the community supports ongoing native forest restoration and all the associated environmental, social and economic benefits it brings to the local community

* The clearing and poisoning of native forest regrowth will destroy wildlife habitat.

*Establishment of rapid rotation pine plantation will reduce environmental flows in these short coastal catchments.

* Will cause landscape fragmentation by scattering pine plantations through the already excellent native forest restoration in the coastal catchment. Full restoration of the coastal catchment is ecologically important to improve landscape connectivity and wildlife corridors between the coast and hinterland.

*Broadscale use of herbicides risks polluting local waterways, wetlands and groundwater.

* A land capability/productivity assessment undertaken by Timberlands identified most of the proposed planting areas as Non-Commercial or Low Productivity

* Each rotation of pine plantation diminishes the ecological resilience (self-regenerative capacity) of the relevant sites mainly as result of the depletion of the soil seedbank containing native plant species. In addition, there is observed diminishing productivity with each rotation as soil is depleted

*Many of the areas proposed for pine planting will require destruction of threatened species habitat for the EPBC listed Chaostola Skipper Butterfly as there are extensive areas of suitable habitat present (*Gahnia radula*) within the proposed planting areas

* Some areas of regenerating *Eucalyptus ovata* forest (Black Gum) are proposed for pine plantation. *Eucalyptus ovata* is a EPBC listed threatened forest community and Swift Parrot habitat.

* Pines are killed by wildfire making them a high risk investment and unsuitable for any carbon mitigation schemes

* In the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration projects such as Restore Skyline Tier are providing best practice and award winning examples of native forest restoration. Planting pines in this context makes no sense rather the logical course of action is to continue to work with the local community to restore biodiverse native forests (NEBN has facilitated \$2 million dollars worth of work at Skyline Tier in the last 15 years).

[Skyline Tier - Environment Tasmania on Vimeo](#)

Vision: Healthy fully restored coastal catchments, waterways and wetlands supporting diverse wildlife and flora, scenic beauty and local community well being.

We recommend that in your response that you cc the following in addition to the Timberlands contact at the bottom of the Notice of Intent. You can also cc us in as well if you want to.

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