

NO NET LOSS OF FAUNA HABITAT PROPOSAL GUNNS PULP MILL, JULY 2007

Introduction

Construction of the Pulp Mill and associated infrastructure will result in the removal of up to 200ha of native vegetation.

This 200ha is considered to constitute potential habitat for a number of Nationally listed threatened fauna species including the Tasmanian devil, spotted-tailed quoll and eastern barred bandicoot.

It also constitutes potential foraging habitat for the masked owl and wedge-tailed eagle, with a small subset of potential foraging habitat for the swift parrot and also contains very small areas of sub-optimal potential habitat for the green and gold frog.

Objective

To mitigate the loss of potential habitat for threatened fauna species through the implementation of a no net loss of fauna habitat proposal.

Methodology

Gunns will undertake rehabilitation activities of previously disturbed sites on Company owned land within the north east region commensurate with the final area of native vegetation disturbed (ie up to 200ha).

Areas rehabilitated will be either pasture or highly degraded sites, with the aim of reinstating or increasing their habitat value for threatened fauna species, and other general fauna and flora species.

Areas will be selected based on:

- Long term viability of the rehabilitated areas;
- Landscape connectivity, aiming to connect areas of native vegetation to provide a larger integrated network of fauna habitat;
- Fauna habitat values, with a particular focus on enhancing and increasing habitat for threatened fauna species, including, but not limited to, the Tasmanian devil, spotted-tailed quoll, eastern barred bandicoot, masked owl, wedge-tailed eagle, swift parrot and green and gold frog; and
- Other natural values, including streams, dams, threatened vegetation communities, threatened flora species and general fauna and flora species.

For these areas a specific Rehabilitation Management Plan will be produced. This plan will:

- Formulate and detail the site specific implementation of management actions; and
- Supply an action plan outlining timeframes for the implementation of each phase, and monitoring and reporting activities.

Areas rehabilitated will be maintained in perpetuity through mapping on Gunns native vegetation reserve system, with a further long term safeguard of a Conservation Covenant on the Land Title.

Monitoring and Reporting

Monitoring of compliance with the rehabilitation management plan will be undertaken through internal and external audit (under ISO14001 and the Australian Forestry Standard auditing), with areas available for inspection at any stage by representatives of the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Water Resources or other State or Commonwealth Government agencies.

A report of the results of the rehabilitation program will be produced and published.