



Final Report Template

Project Title: Improving access to practical information on cypresses and eucalypts
 Project Number: 401298
 Date of Report: July 31st 2015

Note: The Final Report is due to your Project Adviser within two months after the project completion date.

If any material supplied in, or attached to, this report contains confidential information, or is otherwise unsuitable for wider dissemination, please clearly mark accordingly and highlight directly with your Project Adviser (including the reason for wishing to treat the material in this manner).

This information from Sections 2 – 5 and Section 11 will be published on the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) website unless you advise us otherwise.

1. Milestone Summary Table

Milestone Number	Milestone [As per SFF contract schedule]	Completion Date		Percent Complete
		Original	Actual	
401298-1	Detailed project plan completed		30/09/2014	100
401298-2	Filming on three videos completed and post-production underway		31/12/2014	100
401298-3	Up to five more videos filmed in May and early June: Establishing cypresses, thinning eucalypts, and sawmilling/utilisation of cypresses, sawmilling/utilisation of eucalypts		31/05/2015	100
401298-4	All resources complete and available via the NZFFA website. Media release issued.		30/06/2015	100

2. Project Objectives

This project aimed to produce basic, practical grower information on cypresses and eucalypts, the two most promising diverse species-groups in New Zealand. Both species have been successfully grown on a wide range of site types, but on a limited scale, for many years. We knew that basic grower information on cypresses and eucalypts was badly needed, so we proposed to produce a

series of short, farm forester-led videos, complemented by downloadable web-based information, giving basic, best-practice advice on growing, harvesting and utilising these species.

The most significant variation that occurred during the project was that we produced more, shorter videos (11 instead of the six planned), and more handouts, than originally planned. This was because we realised that the information would be better delivered in shorter segments, and shorter videos communicate key points better than long ones.

3. Approach

The approach behind the design of this project was based on two key proven aspects of extension to farmers:

(i) farmers learn best from other farmers - this is the rationale behind the proposed videos. The farm foresters chosen to present the videos are acknowledged experts in their field.

(ii) extension resources need to be available in a variety of formats, and available over time - by providing videos, and web-based material that can be downloaded and printed out, we are giving farmers a choice of resource formats. The material will be available for many years on the NZFFA website; it will also be reasonably easy and cheap to update as necessary. Members of the project team are experienced in design and delivery of web-based and hard-copy resources.

4. What were the main findings from this project?

The project was successful in that the resources have been produced; we learnt quite a lot along the way about the challenges that go with producing short, informative videos out in the forest.

This was not a research project so there are no 'findings' as such.

5. What difference has this project made to your group / community of interest / industry?

We hope the outputs from the project will be useful to novice tree planters, especially farmers, keen to try cypresses and eucalypts as alternatives to radiata pine. This in turn will lead to larger areas of well-managed diverse species in the NZ landscape, and greater quantities of high-quality, high-value timber eventually becoming available in the marketplace.

6. If you did the project again what would you do differently?

There were a number of key learnings about producing videos on a relatively low budget. These included:

- The timing of filming the videos should have been better planned – this was especially the case for the videos on planting eucalypts and cypresses. Instead of trying to simulate planting conditions outside the planting season, the videos would have been better if they had been filmed on-site during the planting season in genuine conditions.
- The content of some of the videos would have been better with stronger directing during filming, with closer attention to detail in the content. Once we left the site it was difficult to add to the content.
- Also we did not budget to allow for contingency time, so had to film on the days planned, regardless of weather conditions. This proved challenging on a couple of occasions.

So the main conclusions are that producing good quality training videos takes careful planning, experience in terms of directing, and a contingency time allowance.

7. Is there anything the SFF could have done differently?

No

8. Is there anything that you have learnt that would be useful for new project teams?

See item 6 above. Making good videos is not as easy as it might appear. It takes a lot of planning and skill, both in filming and in directing.

9. Where to from here – what are the next steps?

The resources are now available on the NZFFA website and will be publicised; also the hope is that the Information Notes will be distributed at farm forestry field days, workshops etc.

10. Financial summary

The project was completed to a high standard and under budget. The final cost (excl. GST) was \$27,305 against the original estimate of \$29,000. Including the final Milestone 4 claim, a total of \$22,122 was claimed from the Sustainable Farming Fund, and non-MPI funding of \$5,178 was provided by the NZ Farm Forestry Association. No unspent MPI grant funding remained at the end of the project.

11. List and attach any major outputs from the project.

The outputs from the project are all available on the NZ Farm Forestry Association website.

They are as follows:

1. Cypresses – information found at <http://nzffa.org.nz/farm-forestry-model/species/cypress/growing-cypresses-for-timber---videos-and-information/>

Videos

- Planting cypresses
- Pruning cypresses – low pruning (first lift)
- Pruning cypresses – medium pruning (second lift)
- Thinning cypresses
- Milling and markets for cypress timber

Information Notes

- Cypress species choice and minimising the risk of canker
- Establishing cypresses
- Pruning cypresses
- Thinning cypresses
- Growing cypresses for timber – some example regimes

2. **Eucalypts** - information found at <http://nzffa.org.nz/farm-forestry-model/species/eucalypts/growing-eucalypts-for-timber---videos-and-information/>

Videos

- Establishing eucalypts on grassland
- Establishing eucalypts on cut-over sites
- Form pruning eucalypts
- Pruning eucalypts for clearwood
- Thinning eucalypts
- Milling, drying and processing eucalypts

Information Notes

- Choosing eucalypts
- Establishing eucalypts
- Form pruning eucalypts
- Pruning eucalypts for clearwood
- Thinning eucalypts
- Growing eucalypts for timber – some example regimes

If appropriate, we would like to publish a copy of the above on our website: please provide an electronic copy for this purpose preferably in Word format.

Report Confirmation

Name [Project Manager]	Confirmation	Date
Harriet Palmer	I hereby confirm the above information is true and correct:	31.07.15

Submission Notes:

1. **Final Reports should be sent electronically** to the MPI SFF Fund Administrator **and** your Project Adviser (in the same e-mail as the final Request for Payment form and invoice). Also attach electronic versions of any resources developed.

Please ensure you put your project number in the e-mail's subject line:
e.g., 09/999 Final report 2011.

2. **Hardcopies of any project resources** developed should be **posted** to the Fund Administrator **and** your Project Adviser.

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