Landcare-led Landscape Resilience

Tools and data for restoration decisions

# Revegetation after Pines

## OBJECTIVES

Revegetation of native vegetation after pine plantations can be challenging - there is a high level of disturbance and very active weed management is needed. The sites are generally in high rainfall - more suited to tubestock revegetation.

At this site in the Upper Murray, the Green Valley fire destroyed the plantation and the owners chose to return it to native vegetation.





## KEY STEPS

- is it feasible? What values will it have for wildlife? In this case the connectivity to the creek was the dealbreaker. The creek is tall Peppermint and Eurabbie forest that is potential habitat for Greater Glider and is linked to remnants at each end.

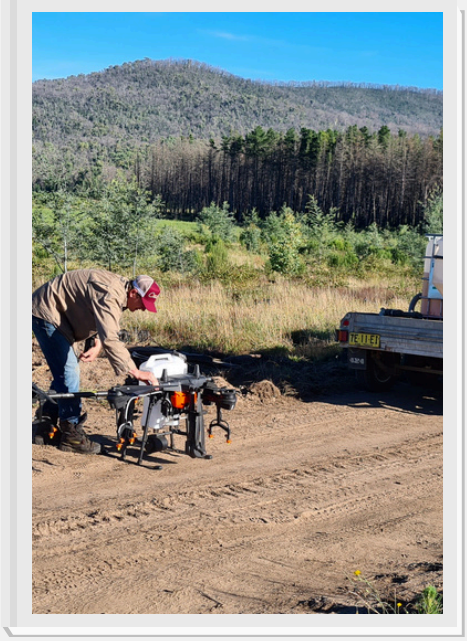
- What weed management would be required and can the owners manage it in the time they can allocate to it?

## WHAT IS SUCCESS?

The aim is to replace the 'pioneer species' first - trees and shrubs like Silver wattle (*Acacia dealbata*), Blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*) and Dogwood (*Cassinia* spp) . Once the overstorey and midlayer establishes it will outcompete the weedy groundlayer and other species can be reintroduced

## CHALLENGES

- No contractor would spot spray the site because of the stumps and debri and potential damage to their equipment
- It was too much to hand spray - owner did not have the equipment or time
- We engaged a drone spray operator to spray it
- The only cost effective way to do it was to blanket spray the site, leaving 4 key areas of regeneration, but accepting offsite damage to some regeneration



**A LOCAL NETWORK OF DEMONSTRATION SITES ARE BEING ESTABLISHED UTILISING 'BEST PRACTICE' RESTORATION AND REVEGETATION TECHNIQUES FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE. THIS IS SHOWCASING OF THE POSITIVE ECONOMIC, PRODUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF NATIVE VEGETATION RESTORATION, AND THE POTENTIAL FOR INCOME STREAMS FOR BUSINESS RESILIENCE.**

## KEY LEARNINGS FROM EXPERIENCE

- Initial weeds were broadleaved weeds like fleabane and dropped out in the first year or two without intervention.
- Blackberries are the main challenge Year 2 after the fire.
- The spraying was effective in bringing back the weed load to maintenance level that could be done by hand, but there was a cost to the regeneration.



## COST CONSIDERATIONS

- The spraying was effective but there was a cost to the regeneration.
- Cost of the drone was about $300/ha in this case, but the quote for more more targeted and selective spraying was considerable more expensive

Thanks to the Criddle family - Holbrook Landcare

**www.revegetation.org.au**

Australian Government | Future Drought Fund | Murrumbidgee Landcare Incorporated | Holbrook Landcare Network