

# MID ROTATION MANAGEMENT FOR SMALL SCALE PLANTATIONS



**GIPPSLAND  
FORESTRY HUB**  
Promoting the Forestry Industry

## The role of emerging forestry and wood products technology and innovation.

### Overview

Due to the changing nature of available fibre resource and potential medium-term challenges with accessing imported wood products, the role of emerging forestry and wood products technology and innovation could be significant in improving both the economics of growing wood and the ability for improved self-reliance on domestically grown timber.

### Project

Mid rotation management (thinning) is currently cost prohibitive for small plantation owners, often resulting in the plantation owner choosing not to thin at the appropriate time, creating a poor final harvest result or the plantation never being harvested at all! Why – this is what needs to be investigated and developed.

Indicators suggest, the current scale of the farm forestry industry does not allow for adequate investment into suitable small scale machine configuration to allow for efficient cost-effective mid rotation management.

Detailed technical report investigating

- Smaller machine configurations, research and trial small scale machinery suited to small plantations, woodlots and agroforestry wide spaced plantings that will help to reduce costs
- Provide a high-level report of the estimated small private plantations within Gippsland. This could include – area, species type, location, and volume. Is there a critical mass to promote investment? How can a critical mass be achieved?
- Mid rotation management for plantations less than 10ha is cost prohibitive due to the high operational costs and low volume output. How can this be improved?

- Often, much of the mid rotation thinning is cut to waste due to lack of market for the smaller diameter wood. Investigate and report on existing markets and potential future markets for smaller diameter wood produced from mid rotation management. Identify areas for potential development
- Investigate the need for government contribution to offset the prohibitive mid rotation costs. Initially, can funding be given to support mid rotation management, increasing investment into the sector for the future?

Overall, this project needs to investigate how we can lower the cost of harvest and haulage for mid rotation management, and increase the price and market diversity for the product.

## Timeframe


Project to commence asap with a **4-month period** once parties are contracted.

## Cost Estimate

To be provided by the service provider.

## Enquiries and submissions

All enquires please contact Lesia Goodwin on:

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