

Guidance Note 3.1

Extra Details – Risk and Management Considerations



IN THIS HELP SHEET

This help sheet provides extra information on risk and mitigation strategies, and regulatory considerations.

Risk Management

Common risks and mitigation strategies are shown below in Table 1.

Table 1: Risks and Management Strategies.

Risk	Mitigation Strategy
Market risk	- Select species that have a current market. Speculation on exotic species will increase your risk. - Have a plan to market/sell your timber before planting. - Consider entering into an offtake agreement with a reputable forestry company to reduce risk.
Unable to get insurance	- Consider joining Forestry Australia which represents small growers and maintains links with providers of plantation insurance. - Contact processors or large growers and see if pooled or group insurance is available. - Consider third-party forest managers who may be able to access insurance. - Demonstrate professional and competent management of plantations by presenting high quality maps and your Fire Management Plan to insurers.
Climate and weather risk	- Select species suited to future climate conditions. - Consider drought, frost, wind, and flood risks during site selection. Fire breaks are essential. - Consider diversifying species to reduce exposure.
Environmental compliance	- Protect waterways, wetlands, threatened species and cultural heritage values. - Maintain required setbacks and buffers. - Follow relevant Codes of Practice and environmental regulations.
Carbon market uncertainty	- Monitor changes to planning, environmental and forestry regulations. - Seek advice from forestry professionals or planning consultants when regulations change.
Poor site selection	- Undertake soil, rainfall, and topographical assessments before planting. - Seek professional forestry advice before establishment. - Review Note 2.0 (Site Selection) for specific management considerations.
Establishment failure	- Use quality seedlings and appropriate planting techniques. - Control weeds before and after planting. - Protect seedlings from grazing animals. - Replace failed seedlings during the establishment period.

Regulatory Considerations

Timber production is subject compliance with your relevant planning regulations (Victorian Planning Scheme and State laws; South Australian Planning and Design Code and other State laws). The Victorian *Code of Practice for Timber Production 2014* (as amended 2022) (Code of Practice) may also be required for projects in Victoria.

While FIT identifies planning zones and many overlays that may affect plantation establishment, it does not replace professional planning, legal advice, or other professional due diligence. Before establishing a plantation, landholders should also consider:

- Native vegetation removal requirements.
- Waterway, wetland, and catchment regulations.
- Cultural heritage obligations.
- Bushfire Management Overlay or equivalent planning controls.
- Environmental significance and biodiversity overlays.
- Local government planning permit requirements.
- Access, road permits and heavy vehicle requirements for future harvesting.
- Biosecurity obligations relating to declared weeds and pests.



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FUNDING: This report was commissioned by the Gippsland Forestry Hub and the Green Triangle Forest Industries Hub with funding from the Australian Government, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.