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Parts B&C

Guidelines for salvage harvest, storage and processing of plantation-grown logs affected by fire



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Foreword

This document has been developed to present a summary of the collective knowledge of many Australian forest industry members with previous experience in the salvage, storage and processing of fire damaged timber. The document fills a gap which was identified during the 2019/2020 fire season where extensive areas of Australian plantation and native forest were burnt. The authors, together with the Technical Expert Working Group, worked to assemble all of the relevant published references and a significant body of grey literature that contains the collective knowledge available for the salvage, storage and processing of fire damaged timber.

The document makes observations, best practice recommendations and identifies knowledge gaps however it is not a definitive document as such, because the variability of the fire events means that there are many possible combinations of inputs and outputs that can be achieved under different circumstances. It is envisaged that the document will be reviewed in advance of the 2021/2022 fire season to capture any additional knowledge arising from the most recent salvage storage and processing of fire damaged timber. As such the knowledge within the document represents the best available at the time of its preparation.

I wish to thank the members of the Technical Expert Working Group and the many other people who have contributed to the information presented in the document. It is hoped that the document will provide a basis for the most effective salvage, storage and processing of fire damaged timber and will provide the basis for an ongoing repository of the knowledge obtained in doing so. The foremost learning from the preparation of this document has been that fire incidents are not unforeseeable occurrences in Australia. Rather fires will continue to occur, maybe even more frequently and intensely, and the impacts need to be planned for strategically at an organisational and collective level to anticipate the likely responses required and minimise the adverse effects. I am confident that this document will contribute greatly to these successful outcomes from future fire events.

Chris Lafferty

RD&E Manager - FWPA



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