



Creating habitat connections and enhancing biodiversity on farm

This project will address the lack of connectivity between isolated patches of remnant vegetation on privately managed land in the extensively cleared landscape of the Glen Innes district in Northern NSW. Through the Project, new areas of mixed native seedlings will be established to increase the area available for wildlife. We will encourage the planting species known to be present to the 2 Threatened Ecological Communities present locally – New England Peppermint grassy woodlands and Upland Wetlands of the New England Tablelands. Private land managers and community groups will be engaged to participate in the project through project publicity and by participating in planting activities on land they manage.

20MT71 - 30 March 2015 – 15 June 2016

Project Outcomes?

TOTAL TREES

Establish 11,500 trees (over 2 metres when mature) and 900 understorey species

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

This project will plant 11,500 seedlings to improve the extent and connectivity of native vegetation in the Glen Innes district. These plantings will enhance the connectivity and resilience of remnants of the vegetation communities identified as a priority for species selection.

The seedlings planted in this project will increase connectivity to a significant area of National Reserve; the Glen Innes district has large tracts of land designated for National Park and Nature Reserves, a total of 125,000 hectares including the Washpool and Gibraltar Ranges World Heritage areas.

Project planting will occur in the spring/summer months of 2015 and 2016, plant survival will be assessed at six and nine months post planting, with any replants to be done after this assessment.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The community will be involved in the project as follows:

- The recipient has identified interested land managers and will seek active engagement of private landholders to ensure community involvement in plantings on private land.
- The recipient will engage a total of three community organisations to be involved in on-ground activities.





What was done?

- 11,500 trees (over 2 metres when mature) have been established by hand-planting into sites prepared by private landholders.
- Seedlings are protected from the elements by milk cartons. All sites are contained within stock proof fencing.
- Project planting occurred from October 2015 to April 2016.
- Site inspections and plant survival surveys have been conducted in May and June 2016.
- Required replanting will be conducted by landholders in the Spring months of 2016.
- GLENRAC worked with land managers who had been identified during the funding application to deliver the project outputs.
- In addition, GLENRAC has engaged 3 community organisations to be involved in on-ground activities.

lessons we learnt

- Pest animal damage to seedlings has been a minor issue. Future projects can highlight the need for the control of rabbit populations located close to proposed planting areas as a key site preparation activity.
- Pest animal and frost damage may be mitigated by the use of corflute tree guards. GLENRAC will investigate the cost benefit of utilising these guards for future projects.
- GLENRAC needs to continue to promote the best practise management techniques for site preparation, planting and post planting care. Ideally this would be done through interactive field day events and supported by written materials and staff expertise.

next step?

GLENRAC will continue to seek funding to support the establishment of further farm revegetation projects to support the strategic planning activities of farmers and public land managers.

Results

- 11,500 native seedlings established
- 26 landholders engaged
- 3 community groups engaged