

The Save my trees Initiative

Save My Trees Great Southern Growers Update – November 30, 2009

The following represents a very brief but important update of “where to from now” for Great Southern Growers. The process discussed impacts core forestry growers, and needs your urgent attention to act.

We must act promptly, diligently and with understanding.

Save My Trees (SMT) is rigorously seeking the best commercial outcome possible for Growers, and is doing much behind the scenes to make this a possibility. To this end we need your urgent support now:

1. It is essential that an outcome is achieved before Christmas 2009. Timing is critical as our living assets are at threat from lack of agricultural care, fire risk, lack of funding, termination of leases etc.
2. There is a distinct lack of meaningful and detailed Grower information from McGrathNicol (McN) as RE of the schemes. SMT has publicly questioned whether McN have in fact been capable of balancing the RE role with the Receiver role – specifically McN’s engagement with Growers.

Despite the clear fact that Growers have invested more money into Great Southern than the Bank Syndicates, McN seem more willing to engage with the banks. SMT believes this has led to a lack of transparency and understanding around the current process for Growers.

We need to ensure Growers do not act prematurely as we are expecting a large amount of information over the next week to assist in understanding, and allowing diligent comparisons of offers.

Please note: Delay in making bid details public, has meant comparisons cannot yet effectively be done however, once these details are public we all need to act swiftly.

3. When the time comes to vote it will be essential that we have as much unity as possible.

The danger of not voting in favour of any proposal is enormous and could lead to the potential wind up of Schemes. We all have to play a part in achieving unity. If you do not make an effort when this time comes then do not complain about the result. A failure to vote is tantamount to a vote against – we must vote with understanding and unity.

Pulpwood Plantations - Offer

The move by Pulpwood to publish their offer and call a meeting of Growers has been a partial catalyst in shaking McN as RE / Receiver from the apparent lethargy on getting commercial information public and most importantly focussed on a pre Christmas vote.

We encourage you to educate yourselves on and understand the terms of the offer from Pulpwood. It is important you understand the offer so you may compare it to other offers that may now come into the public arena.

We are not endorsing you to vote for or against Pulpwood’s Offer at this point in time.

Pulpwood Plantation Proxies:

- Final time for receiving proxies is 10.00 am WST time Tuesday, 8 December 2009

What if I have already voted?

- Do not worry if you have already voted and wish to change your mind, you simply need to lodge a new proxy to override the earlier dated one

Gunns – Offer

At the time of writing, SMT have seen little formal detail on the Gunns offer. We have largely been in the dark. SMT have been encouraging release of information from Gunns for some time and expect release any day now.

It is critical the Gunns offer results in a pre Christmas vote. SMT understand Gunns have a proposed date of 23 December, 2009.

A pre Christmas vote is important given McN as RE has limited funding that has led to critical works not getting done, third party leases being defaulted, Grower lots in danger and value shrinking.

McN Consultative Committee

- As noted previously SMT has two members on the McN Consultative Committee. At the date of writing SMT has no more than broad description on the merits of offers
- The Gunns Offer has not been endorsed by the Consultative Committee of McN nor by SMT. SMT have no detailed understanding or comparison based on intelligent criteria as to why the Gunns offer may be preferable to either the Pulpwood or Black Tree proposals
- SMT understand it is more acceptable to the banking syndicates. This does not necessarily align it with Growers' best interests

We look forward to receiving Gunns' printed information and making comparison. Please note, simply comparing percentages is not adequate. With all offers the devil will be in the detail.

Supreme Court Hearing – Melbourne – 24 November 2009

SMT was represented by Chairman Rob Burns as formal contradictor in a Hearing in Melbourne to consider various aspects of the situation Growers are now facing including:

Timing of votes, ability to vote Great Southern woodlots etc.

SMT made representations for:

- A clear process;
- An urgent process;
- Timing of vote pre Christmas;
- No potential for a split vote;
- Disclosure to Growers;
- No dilution of vote for Growers on 3rd party lease land (eg. Tiwi's); and
- Woodlots owned by Great Southern entities being able to be included in vote.

The outcome of this Hearing was published Friday, 27 November 2009.

Final Note

Important information will be coming your way over the coming days on the offers discussed above.

Please ensure you read this information diligently and gain an understanding that will enable you to act. We all need to act urgently and with unity. Failure to do so could result in a poor outcome for Growers.

We may not receive a lot of notice so please be organised and prepared.

Please do not let our community down by failing to act.

Rob Burns
Chairman
Save My Trees