

Encouraging Observations at Wagga Wagga Agro Forestry Study

The agro forestry study at Wagga Wagga managed by Dr Greg Summerell* aims to grow high value agro forestry products in a saline and water logged area that had lost all productivity potential. The trees chosen to reclaim a viable landuse were salt and water logging tolerant such as eucalyptus species *E. occidentalis*, and *E. camaldulensis*. The testing of *TM Agricultural* was under a hybrid species **Saltgrow™** Eucalyptus grandis x *E. camaldulensis* that were bred to give the salt and water logging stress tolerance of *E. camaldulensis* with the growth and wood property traits of *E. grandis* and *E. globulus*.

Dr Summerell's reasons for trailing *TM Agricultural* was to see if he could increase ground cover under these agro forestry plots. This was to increase grazing potential, as currently the ground is bare for most of the year. This was an ambitious task given the environment is soil moisture and light deprived due to the actively growing and close canopy trees. "Very encouraging initial results from *TM Agricultural* have been observed so far." Notably was the increase in soil friability (leading to soil moisture retention) that had developed over a very short period of time. This in turn has led to stored seed in the soil to germinate, and hence significantly more observable ground cover. Dr Summerell concluded: "I will be watching with keen eyes and monitoring the progress throughout the year."



TM Agricultural being applied on Wagga Wagga agro forestry trials

*Dr Summerell obtained his PhD at the University of Melbourne in catchment field assessments in hydrology, salinity, soils and modelling. He has 15 years natural resource research and management experience with various research organisations: He currently manages teams that specialises in landscape terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity modelling, species compositions impacts from fire, hydrology and salinity, cultural heritage modelling and regional wind-blown dust monitoring and modelling.



Before treatment



Spray line



Two months after treatment



First signs of increased grazing potential with high value clover germination with nothing more than *TM Agricultural* applied

