

FibreCell Australia Pty Ltd

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GROWING AUSTRALIAN FORESTRY

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For the purpose of providing biomass for biofuels, biochar or cogeneration, timber biomass is only part of the answer. The yield from plantation hardwoods, softwoods and mallee in terms of dry tonnes per ha.pa is a fraction of the yield from Napier Grass, Miscanthus, Giant Reed and other perennial grasses.

In addition, these tall fast growing plantations mature within 3 years and are harvested annually from then on at a demonstrateable yield of 45 dry tonnes per ha.pa.

This submission seeks to extend the definition of 'forestry' to include other cellulose based plantations which not only out-compete traditional forests, but can be established on marginal, salt-affected lands. They can be rain-fed or irrigated with waste or saline water.

The opportunity for rural Australia to utilize non-productive land to produce high yielding non-invasive biomass needs to be seriously considered – not only as a biomass feedstock for power/fuel, but as a source of incremental income for farmers with marginal or salt affected land.

See 'Commercial Potential for Giant Reed' by SARDI (Sth. Aust. R & D Inst.) and Fibrecell for detailed analysis of yields, agronomy, invasiveness issues and viability. This Report is available through RIRDC (Rural Ind. R & D Corp.)

For further detail if required, please contact –

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