

History of Araucaria in the Imbil Area

Araucaria has been an important timber resource in Queensland since the early 1800s. The plantation program was initiated in 1917 to replace the declining reserves of natural Araucaria. It is the only major plantation-grown native conifer in Australia. There are currently around 44,000 hectares of Araucaria plantations in Queensland.

The domestication of Araucaria in Queensland is one of only a few global examples where an indigenous rainforest tree has been successfully introduced into commercial plantations within its natural environmental range. Araucaria is native to the Kenilworth area and plantations are surrounded by a network of rainforest that was deliberately retained when the plantation estate was developed several decades ago.

The scientific name *Araucaria cunninghamii* honours the botanist and explorer Allan Cunningham, who collected the first specimens of Araucaria in the 1820s.

The establishment of the Imbil Forest Station in 1916 coincided with growing interest in plantations to supplement the reserves of natural Araucaria. The first commercial Araucaria plantation in the Imbil area was planted in 1920.



Debarking hoop pine logs in the early 1900s

July 2019 Update



Plantation Harvesting near Charlie Moreland Park Community Newsletter

In August 2018, HQPlantations plans to commence harvesting the Araucaria (Hoop Pine) plantations adjacent to Charlie Moreland Park located south-west of Kenilworth.

Harvest and replanting operations will temporarily restrict public access to the plantation and some sections of the Little Yabba and Piccabeen walking circuits.

HQPlantations recognizes the social, environmental and commercial contribution the Araucaria plantations provide for the region, and will continue to implement strategies developed in the 1990's that conserves and encourages regeneration of the rainforest ecosystem along Little Yabba Creek.

This newsletter contains information about the harvesting, replanting and conservation program.

Stage 1 of the harvest and replant operation has been completed with walking tracks re-opened from Christmas 2018.

Stage 2 of the harvest and replant operation is set to commence in late July/August 2019. These operations will again result in the temporary restriction of public access to the plantation and sections of the Little Yabba and Piccabeen walking circuits.

About us

HQPlantations manages approximately 337,500 hectares of land throughout Queensland to grow renewable Southern Pine, Araucaria and Hardwood plantations. These plantations produce around 2.5 million tonnes of log timber annually that support both domestic and export customers.

As well as supplying plantation products, HQPlantations manages native forests which provide a range of conservation, community and other values.

For more information contact:

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Quick Facts

- Staged harvesting and summer replanting of the 40 Hectares of plantation is proposed over the next two years
- Only small sections will be harvested and replanted at a time to minimise impacts to recreation users
- Most of the trees will be milled by processors in Southeast Queensland supplying local and international markets
- To maintain the campground and walking circuit outlook during harvesting and replanting, a buffer of Araucaria plantation and associated rainforest understorey will be retained along Little Yabba Creek

Keeping everyone safe

At HQPlantations, safety is our number one priority. Our commitment to safety extends to our employees, our contractors, our neighbours, local communities and visitors to the area.

To ensure public safety, the plantation and some parts of Little Yabba and Piccabeen walking circuits will be temporarily closed during harvest and re-establishment operations. If you intend to visit this area, please obey all signage.

Visitors are also advised to be alert for increased heavy vehicle traffic on Sunday Creek Road.

Sustainability

Harvest and re-planting operations are being undertaken in accordance with HQPlantations' forest management systems, which are independently certified to internationally recognised Responsible Wood and Forest Stewardship Council sustainable forest management requirements.

Where will the timber go?

Harvested trees will be milled predominantly by Southeast Queensland based processors, supplying local and international markets. Timber products produced from Araucaria plantations include specialty fine quality plywood, mouldings, panelling and joinery through to house framing products.

Environmental Initiatives

HQPlantations recognises that our Araucaria plantations contribute to the landscape and environmental and social values associated with the area.

A management strategy has been developed to oversee the harvest and re-planting of the Araucaria plantations adjacent to Charlie Moreland Park. The strategy seeks to preserve the popular Little Yabba and Piccabeen walking circuits in-situ, and protect and encourage the rainforest surrounding Little Yabba Creek.

- A conservation strategy was developed in the mid 1990s recognising the recreation and environmental values of the rainforest surrounding Little Yabba Creek. At this point, the plantation surrounding Little Yabba Creek was heavily thinned, removing a high proportion of Araucaria plantation trees, encouraging the development of native rainforest understorey and canopy species in the lead up to the current final harvest of the adjoining plantation.
- This strategy will be continued and enhanced further with the strategic retention of a 40 m plantation buffer along Little Yabba Creek and the watercourse containing the Piccabeen walking circuit. This unharvested buffer contains predominantly rainforest under-storey, mature Araucaria and developing rainforest over-storey.
- Following harvest, leaf and branch material is retained on site to provide soil nutrition benefits
- Araucaria seedlings will be planted as soon as possible after harvesting following suitable rainfall.
- Educational signs will be installed providing recreational users an opportunity to view and learn about a typical Araucaria plantation through various stages of its lifecycle.

