

2017 North East Region Planting, Fertilising and Guarding Tender

Introduction

VicForests invites prices for hand planting, fertilising and guarding works as part of its regeneration program in the Toolangi, Acheron and Mansfield areas.

Eligibility criteria

To be considered contractors must have the following:

- ABN and ACN,
- Safety Management System,
- Workcover insurance,
- Public liability, vehicle and plant insurance

Description of works

The works involve:

- Transport of seedlings, fertiliser, tree guards and stakes from Toolangi and Alexandra depots to site
- Planting of eucalypt seedlings (131,490 seedlings in total)
- Fertilising each seedling with one 21g fertiliser tablet (Agriform or Typhoon)
- Installation of tree guards (required for 54,820 seedlings in total)

The work covers 21 sites. Each site is treated as a separate tender lot. Given the quantity and complexity of the work it is anticipated that the work will be allocated between a number of contractors.

Ease of access varies between the sites. Some are accessible by 4x4, some by side-by-side, and some only by foot. The contractor is responsible for the transport of seedlings and planting materials to the site. Access to some of the sites is very challenging.

Works must be completed as per the specification attached in Appendix 2.

Safety

The contractor must have a fully functioning safety management system. This must include appropriate site inspection and risk assessment processes which ensure compliance with relevant occupational health and safety regulations.

All planting crews must wear personal protective equipment appropriate for working in a forest environment. As a minimum, this includes safety helmet and high visibility clothing.

Use of off-road vehicles

- The contractor may elect to use a side-by-side vehicle. Operators must be trained and must use all protective equipment recommended by the manufacturer.
- The use of quad bikes is not permitted.



Timing of works

Preference is for works to be completed between 19 June and 25 August 2017. Works must be completed by 8 September 2017 at the latest. Preference will be given to contractors who can complete their allotted sites within the preferred timeframe.

Site inspection

Contractors are very strongly encouraged to familiarise themselves with the sites and tree guards prior to submitting their response. Maps are attached showing the planting sites.

Note that the site *Tanzania* is behind a gate which may be locked due to nearby timber harvesting operations. Contractors should contact Karen Doherty (0419 876 963 or karen.doherty@vicforests.com.au) prior to visiting this site to facilitate access.

Pricing structure

- Prices are exclusive of GST.
- It is preferred that contractors enter prices for all lots, but this is not a requirement.
- The \$/seedling price includes; transport from depot, planting, fertilising and guarding (where required) as per the attached specifications.
- The total number of seedlings outlined in Appendix 1 is subject to variation. Payment will be based upon the actual number of seedlings planted.
- The \$/hour price is for any additional, minor planting works which may be required in addition to the work outlined in Appendix 1. It is for onsite time only (does not include travel).
- Payment terms are 30 days from receipt of invoice. Invoices may be submitted at the conclusion of each site.

Submission of tender

Responses must be received by 9:00am Wednesday 31 May 2017.

Responses must be on the form attached in Appendix 3.

Responses may be submitted by either:

- Sent by email to karen.doherty@vicforests.com.au, with subject line "Confidential planting tender", or
- Post or hand in a sealed envelope to: Karen Doherty, Planting tender, VicForests, 5 Binns McCraes Rd, Alexandra, VIC 3714

Selection of preferred contractor

VicForests will select contractor(s) which it believes will give it the best outcome. Factors taken into consideration will include:

- Price
- Experience
- Ability to complete within preferred timeframe
- Safety



The preferred contractor(s) will be notified by Friday 2 June. A contract will then be drawn up by VicForests and must be signed before works commence.

Questions

Any questions must be directed to Karen Doherty (0419 876 963) or karen.doherty@vicforests.com.au.



Appendix 1. Summary of the works

Site #	District	Coupe Name	Species	Stocking	Area	Tree Guard Required				Total	Comments
						No Guard	White Mesh	Black Mesh	Coreflute		
1	Toolangi	South End	MA	600	2.95		1,770			3,540	upper slope
					2.95				1,770		lower slope
2	Toolangi	Leos Foot	MA	600	2.7		1,620			1,620	
3	Toolangi	Big Bull Fiddle	MA	600	1.8		1,080			1,080	
4	Toolangi	Blowhard Dam	MA	600	1.7		1,020			2,880	W section
					3.1				1,860		E section
5	Toolangi	Crawler	MA	600	1.4			840		840	
6	Toolangi	Delilah	MA	600	2.7		1,620			1,620	
7	Toolangi	Big Axe	MA	600	4.5		2,700			2,700	
8	Toolangi	Kalamata	MA	600	8.9		5,340			5,760	above rd - guards/canes already on site
					0.7				420		below rd
9	Toolangi	Oak	MA	600	5.4				3,240	3,240	
10	Toolangi	Quercus	MA	1500	10.8	16,200				16,200	fenced
11	Toolangi	Sea Shells	MA	1200	10.7	4,280	8,560			19,800	N sections - guard 1 in 3
					5.8	6,960					S section - no guards
12	Toolangi	Jukebox	MA	600	3.9		2,340			2,340	
13	Toolangi	Fenton	MA	600	1.6		960			960	
14	Toolangi	Summit Ridge	MA	1200	4.3	3,440	1,720			5,160	guard 1 in 3
15	Toolangi	Makalu	MA	1200	11.2	8,960	4,480			13,440	guard 1 in 3
16	Toolangi	Status Quo/Nomad	MA	1200	8.8	7,040	3,520			10,560	guard 1 in 3
17	Toolangi	Murrindindi/Lyrebird	MA	1500	8.1	12,150				14,730	fenced
				600	4.3				2,580		guarded
18	Toolangi	Giant	MA	1500	4.4	6,600				6,600	fenced
19	The Acheron	Quel	MA	600	4.7		2,820			2,820	guards/canes already on site
20	The Acheron	Tanzania	MA	600	7.6		4,560			4,560	locked gate - contact VF prior to visit
21	Strathbogies	Ferraris	MM,BG,NP,DA,VM	800	13.8	11,040				11,040	fenced
						76,670	44,110	1,260	9,450	131,490	

Appendix 2. Specification for Planting, Fertilising and Guarding

1. Seedlings will be provided in Hico 40 cell trays.
2. The contractor will transport seedlings, fertiliser, tree guards and stakes/canes from the Alexandra/Toolangi depots to the planting site. The contractor is responsible for protecting the plants from browsing and keeping plants watered prior to planting
3. Seedlings must be transported undercover.
4. On the day of planting the root ball of the seedlings must be saturated.
5. Required stocking varies between sites (600/ha, 800/ha, 1200/ha to 1500/ha).
6. Seedlings are to be planted so that:
 - a. stem is vertical (<20 degrees from the vertical)
 - b. seedling is firmed in (can withstand a reasonable pull), or but is not too compacted
 - c. there are no exposed roots
 - d. root collar is below the soil surface by up to 5 cm and is definitely not above
 - e. there are no roots pointing upwards
 - f. there are no air pockets.
7. Fertiliser must be buried 5-10cm from the seedling. The tablet must not be touching the seedling stem or rootball. One fertiliser tablet to be used per seedling.
8. Tree Guards
 - a. Must be installed the same day seedling is planted. No seedlings (requiring tree guards) to be left unprotected overnight
 - b. Gap between ground and bottom of guard must not exceed 2.5cm at any point
 - c. Black Mesh (90cm tall)
 - i. 3 x 120cm hardwood stakes used
 - ii. Stakes positioned evenly around the seedling
 - iii. Stake spacing must be such that the tree guards is not excessively loose
 - iv. Stakes must be driven in vertically
 - v. Stakes must be driven very firmly into ground with a post driver, so that they cannot be removed without significant force
 - vi. Guard must be stapled onto each stake with heavy duty staples
 - d. Coreflute (90cm tall)
 - i. 2 hardwood stakes required
 - a) 1 x 150cm hardwood stake threaded through slits in guard. It must be inside the guard at top and bottom.
 - b) 1 x 120cm or 150cm hardwood stake in opposite corner of the guard to prevent it from spinning
 - ii. Stakes must be driven very firmly into ground with a post driver, so they cannot be removed without significant force.
 - iii. Guard must be installed with majority of vent holes at top.
 - iv. Guard must be stapled at least twice onto each hardwood stake with heavy duty staples.
 - e. White Mesh (60cm)
 - i. 3 x 90cm canes

- ii. Canes must be threaded through mesh at least 4 times
 - iii. Canes must be driven firmly into the ground
 - iv. Canes must not lean towards seedlings (must be either vertical or lean slightly away from seedling)
- f. Guards to be used are shown in photo below. Note the following changes in guard use from the photo below:
- i. Black Mesh - three stakes are required
 - ii. Coreflute – two hardwood stakes to be used



9. Planting, fertilising and guarding will be monitored for quality and planting density, and financial penalties will be applied according to the following:

% of unacceptable plants	% payment reduction
< 10%	No Reduction
10-13%	5%
13-17%	17.5%
17-20%	30%
>20%	No Payment

10. These specifications may only be varied with prior approval of the VicForests supervisor



Appendix 3. Response Form

Contractor details

Company name:	
ABN	
ACN	
Contact name:	
Phone number	
Email address	
Postal address:	

Timing

When will you commence and complete these works?

Commencement:.....(earliest 19 June 2017)

Completion:.....(latest 8 September 2017)

Other comments regarding timing:

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Maximum quantity of work

Contractors are encouraged to submit prices for all sites. Yet it is recognised that due to the large volume and complexity of work they will likely not have the capacity to complete all sites within the preferred timeframe.

Are you able to complete all works you have priced by 20 August? YES/NO

If, No, what is the maximum number of guarded and unguarded seedlings you can complete by 25 August?

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Experience

Enter details of planting/guarding works you have completed in the past 3 years:

When	What	Quantity	Who	Comments
<i>EXAMPLE June-July 2015</i>	<i>pine seedlings</i>	<i>230,000</i>	<i>HVP, Myrtleford</i>	
<i>EXAMPLE August 2015</i>	<i>Various native seedlings</i>	<i>10,000</i>	<i>Toolangi Landcare</i>	<i>Planted with 60cm plastic sleeve guards and canes</i>

How many years experience do you have planting?.....

How many years experience do you have using tree guards?.....

How many people are in your crew and what is their experience?
.....
.....
.....

Other comments regarding experience:
.....
.....
.....

Safety

Does your business have a safety management system?.....YES / NO

Does your business have JSAs/Safe Work Procedures covering planting, fertilising and guarding works?.....YES / NO

Does your business have a site specific risk assessment process?.....YES / NO

Do you propose to use a side-by-side utility vehicle?.....YES / NO

If you answered yes to above, are your operators appropriately trained and do they have and use protective equipment as recommended by the manufacturer?.....YES / NO

Does your business have workcover, public liability and vehicle insurance?.....YES / NO



How many safety incidents/near misses has your business had in the past two years? List the brief details and your business's response?

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Other comments regarding safety:

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Rates

Enter your \$/seedling rates into the yellow boxes below.

The rate includes transport from depot, planting, fertilising and guarding (where required).

Quantities are subject to change. Payment will be upon the actual number of seedlings planted.

Rates are GST exclusive.

Site #	Site Name	Have you inspected the site? (Y or N)	No Guard		White Mesh		Black Mesh		Coreflute	
			approx quantity	Price (\$/seedling)	approx quantity	Price (\$/seedling)	approx quantity	Price (\$/seedling)	approx quantity	Price (\$/seedling)
1	South End		0	-	1,770		0	-	1,770	
2	Leos Foot		0	-	1,620		0	-	0	-
3	Big Bull Fiddle		0	-	1,080		0	-	0	-
4	Blowhard Dam		0	-	1,020		0	-	1,860	
5	Crawler		0	-			840		0	-
6	Delilah		0	-	1,620		0	-	0	-
7	Big Axe		0	-	2,700		0	-	0	-
8	Kalamata		0	-	5,340		420		0	-
9	Oak		0	-	0	-	0	-	3,240	
10	Quercus		16,200		0	-	0	-	0	-
11	Sea Shells		11,240		8,560		0	-	0	-
12	Jukebox		0	-	2,340		0	-	0	-
13	Fenton		0	-	960		0	-	0	-
14	Summit Ridge		3,440		1,720		0	-	0	-
15	Makalu		8,960		4,480		0	-	0	-
16	Status Quo/Nomad		7,040		3,520		0	-	0	-
17	Murrindindi/Lyrebird		12,150		0	-	0	-	2,580	
18	Giant		6,600		0	-	0	-	0	-
19	Quel		0	-	2,820		0	-	0	-
20	Tanzania		0	-	4,560		0	-	0	-
21	Ferraris		11,040		0	-	0	-	0	-

\$/hour/crew member onsite rate for additional works required