

8. The Back Run: Replacing nitens with pines for timber, carbon economic value



The Back Run is one of the seven successful Round 1 Integrated Farm Forestry Demonstration Sites receiving grant funding to develop landscape scale best practice forestry plantings on their properties at Westerway and Ellendale.

AT A GLANCE

Owner	Tom and Sarah Clark
Property name	The Back Run & Westerway
Location	Ellendale, Central Highlands
Property Size	Ellendale 205ha, Westerway 780ha
Enterprise	Sheep, cattle and brassica seed crops
Rainfall	650-700 mm
Soil type	Coarse sand over clay
Forest area	49ha

KEY POINTS

- The importance of species selection
- Trees deliver multiple benefits
- Carbon credits
- Shelterbelts for agricultural productivity
- Aesthetic benefits of trees in the landscape

Introduction

Sarah and Tom Clark purchased the demonstration sites properties a few years ago, with some poor performing *E.nitens* established on the property.

In 2021, a 35ha woodlot area was established using bare rooted seedlings, with a further 14ha being established in 2022.

The Clark's have successfully registered their plantings in the project through the Australian Government Clean Energy Regulator, Emission Reduction Fund plantation methodology.

Through harvesting their ex *E.nitens* plantation and establishing *P.radiata* they were able to successfully demonstrate their project was eligible for Schedule 2 of the plantation methodology.



"We purchased the land with the trees and the nitens hadn't done well here, it was the wrong tree for this particular place, but we could see the possibility of having the right trees on this block and the benefits we could get from that. We're very much focused on

- Greenfield sites ripped to maximise soil moisture potential.
 - Second rotation woodlot was planted into existing mounds.
 - Woodlot area was helicopter aerial sprayed in March 2021.
 - Woodlot had follow-up spot spraying where required in March 2022.
 - Shelterbelt area was sprayed pre-plant.
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- Open rooted *P.radiata* seedlings supplied by Lanoma Forest Nursery.
 - *E.nitens* cleared and logged, *P.radiata* planted between stumps for second rotation.
 - Seedlings spade planted by Forest Planters Silvicultural crew, Derwent Valley.
 - Planters did a good job of pushing into uncultivated ground.
 - Shelterbelt component (14ha) was planted in 2022 with seedlings from Lanoma Forest Nursery.

*increasing the shelter that
we have for our stock,"
Sarah Clark said.*



- *P.radiata* - 39.3ha

- 1,070 stems per hectare.
- Survival as at November 2021 = 93%

- Browsing along the perimeter has caused some survival losses.
- Weeds have impacted the growth of the seedlings in 2022 with *Pharlaris* grass domination sections of the woodlot.

- Shelterbelts will have follow-up weed control with medd-a-metre.
- Woodlot area along shelterbelts will have re-filling done in winter 2023.

- Trees that will deliver multiple benefits.
- Carbon credits.
- Using the land to its capability.
- Creating an intergenerational asset.
- Reducing livestock burning energy.

"We've got some areas of ground here that are really well suited to grazing, but other areas of ground that aren't suited for grazing and the best thing to do with them is to have trees."

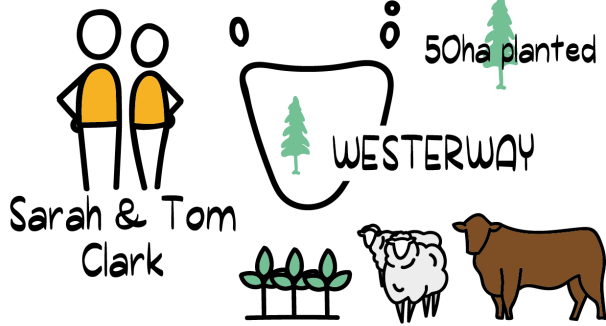


Watch the Back Run Video

The Clarks are sheep, cattle and brassica seed crop farmers who have diversified their farming enterprise using their land to suit its capabilities. By strategically reviewing their property, the Clarks created a property plan identify areas where pasture belongs and areas better suited to commercial trees. It's not just about growing trees for potential harvest but also about shelter for direct livestock benefits and for future generations.

"The main financial benefit from the woodlots will be from the harvest of them in around 25 years' time. Project when it comes to tree planting, it's, it's not a quick, quick turnover at all, but it's a long-term investment."

THE BACK RUN



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