

REGISTERED OFFICE
28A BRISBANE STREET, LAUNCESTON, TAS 7250

TELEPHONE +61 3 6364 3180
FACSIMILE +61 3 6334 5318



GUNNS PLANTATIONS LIMITED
ABN 36 091 232 209
AFSL NO. 238701
(Receivers & Managers Appointed) (In Liquidation) (GPL)

A WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF GUNNS LIMITED
ABN 29 09 478 148
(Receivers & Managers Appointed) (In Liquidation)(Gunns)

Grower update – 29 April 2016

This update relates to Gunns Plantations Woodlot Schemes 2003, Option 1 (the Scheme)

(Excludes the Great Southern Schemes and all other GPL Woodlot Schemes)

This communication updates you on:

1. Estimated Grower return
2. Distribution update
3. Details of Grower return
4. Source of funds
5. Application of funds
6. Timing of Grower payments
7. Grower loans
8. Next steps

In conjunction with this update please refer to the updates to Growers dated 29 February 2016 and 23 December 2015 available at:

- www.ppbadvisory.com/creditor-information
- <http://www.abl.com.au/gunns/gunns.htm>

We are writing to you to provide an update on the estimated returns expected for this Scheme. This update provides detail on the various proceeds and costs applicable to this Scheme.

1. Estimated Grower return

Table 1: Estimated returns

GPL 2003 Scheme – Option 1		\$
Surplus funds after costs		4,668,175
No. of woodlots in Scheme		14,805
Estimated return per woodlot (\$)		315.31

Note this return is calculated on the basis of the current estimate of funds available and the costs summarised herein. These assumptions may change over time and accordingly the final return to Growers may alter from the above estimate. We have assumed the ATO's treatment of GST will allow for an efficient payment and distribution process. Should the ATO require a different treatment of GST, this may also alter the estimated return.

Disclaimer

Growers are encouraged to read this update in its entirety before making any decisions concerning their investment. Growers should make their own independent evaluation of the relevance and adequacy of the information contained herein.

PPB Advisory has not considered the investment objectives, financial situation or particular needs of individual Growers or any other person. Accordingly, this update should not be relied upon as the sole basis for any decision in relation to your investment. Growers should obtain and rely on professional advice from their own tax, legal, accounting and other professional advisers in respect of the Growers' investment objectives, financial position or particular needs.

2. Distribution update

We wrote to Growers on 29 February 2016 outlining the main issues requiring resolution prior to any distribution occurring. Although the treatment of GST is yet to be finalised, based on progress to date we are satisfied that we remain on track for distributions to commence prior to 30 June 2016.

i) Taxation compliance

Growers will recall from the 29 February 2016 update that we have been seeking ATO determination on the taxation treatment of scheme funds realised.

We have received the finalised ATO Income Tax class ruling (CR 2016/9) which is now available on the following websites:

- <http://law.ato.gov.au/pdf/pbr/cr2016-019.pdf>
- www.ppbadvisory.com/creditor-information

We are yet to receive formal guidance from the ATO in relation to the GST treatment. We maintain regular communication with PwC and the ATO and expect to provide an update to Growers shortly.

We will notify Growers with any material updates on this issue.

ii) Competing claims determination

Growers will recall from prior updates that competing claims to the Scheme proceeds largely comprised landowners claims for unpaid past and future rent for leasing land to the Scheme (**Landowners Claims**).

In this Scheme, the amount of Landowner Claims would consume all available proceeds to Growers if left unresolved.

During the period September 2013 to 29 February 2016, we conducted lengthy but successful negotiations with landowners to remove over 52% of claims against the GPL Woodlot Scheme Trees (**Scheme Assets**).

On 18 December 2015 we wrote to Landowners advising them that we had determined that their claims for outstanding lease liabilities will not be met from the Scheme Assets. We provided landowners the opportunity to appeal the Liquidators' decision through the Supreme Court of Victoria (**Court**) for a specified period under s1321 of the Corporations Act 2001.

As noted in our prior update, no appeals were lodged by landowners. Accordingly, we now propose to commence the process of distributing funds to Growers without any deduction for Landowner Claims subject to the finalisation of the taxation matter noted in section 2 i) above.

iii) Other matters

We continue to progress resolution of the Other Matters as described in our update to Growers on 29 February 2016. These Other Matters now only include cost applications for Liquidation costs, including future costs to finalisation.

3. Details of Grower return

Table 2: Estimated return

GPL 2003 - Option 1	Section Reference	(\$)
Source of Funds	4	
Sale Proceeds (incl.int)		7,306,512
Post-app custodial account (incl.int)		43,772
Pre-app custodial account (incl.int)		48,436
Total distributable funds		7,398,720
Application of Funds	5	
PPBA costs		(1,514,226)
Legal costs		(450,723)
Maintenance and other costs		(688,693)
Surplus before distribution		4,745,078
Distribution costs		(76,904)
Surplus funds after costs		4,668,175
No. of woodlots in Scheme		14,805
Estimated return per woodlot (\$)		315.31
September 2015 grower update estimated return		299.12
Change in return		16.19

Note, the estimated net return:

- is calculated on the basis of estimated costs, including costs which are yet to be approved by the Court and future costs. Those costs may vary. If the actual costs are more than the estimated costs, the net return to Growers will reduce. If the actual costs are less than the estimated costs, the net return to Growers will increase
- assumes that no liabilities, other than Scheme Costs, are payable from the Sale Proceeds. If there are other liabilities payable, the net return to Growers may reduce
- assumes that the guidance received from the ATO on the GST treatment will allow for a an efficient GST payment process and simplified Grower return distribution process. In the event that GST needs to be individually remitted to Growers for remittance to the ATO, distribution costs are likely to rise and the net return to Growers may reduce.

Changes in estimated returns

The Scheme received funds in addition to those previously forecasted. These additional Scheme proceeds arose from:

- compensation for the surrender of Scheme leases held with Australian Forestry Plantations Trust (Receivers and Manager Appointed) and Australian Forestry Plantations Trust Number 2 (Receivers and Managers Appointed) (together **AFPT**) (refer section 4ii) below)
- third party landowners acquiring the Scheme trees on their land. The total sale proceeds available to the Scheme from third party landowner sales totalled \$21,519
- post appointment Scheme proceeds relating to compensation for the removal of resources
- amounts held in Scheme custodian accounts
- interest paid on Scheme proceeds.

Costs increased predominately due to the unanticipated extended time to resolve:

- i) Landowner claims - we conducted lengthy but successful negotiations with landowners to remove claims against the Scheme Assets during which we reduced potential claims. The end result was positive for Growers as we now propose to commence the process of distributing funds to Growers without any deduction for Landowner Claims. If this had not been determined in the Growers favour (as outlined in section 2(ii)), or landowner arrangements not entered into, the amount of claims in this Scheme would have consumed all of available proceeds to Growers.
- ii) Tax determinations – we entered into detailed discussions with the ATO and PwC on the treatment of Scheme and RE income tax and GST positions in relation to distributions. The ATO took into account the complexities of the liquidation process and the difficulty of Growers to meet their tax obligations. In respect of income tax, the ATO has adopted an administrative approach which will allow for an efficient distribution and tax reporting process, therefore lowering overall costs required to distribute proceeds to Growers. We anticipate a position on the GST treatment soon and will update Growers with any material developments.

4. Source of funds

The Scheme is a pooled scheme. Accordingly, proceeds received from the sale or harvest of Scheme Assets will benefit the pool of Growers in the Scheme. These proceeds are summarised above in Table 2 (**Distributable Funds**).

Growers who are to receive insurance proceeds from a claim that impacts their entire holding will not participate in the allocation of the pool of General scheme funds outlined as per the Scheme documents. Separate communications have been sent to these Growers.

i) TFE Sale

Growers will recall the sale of approximately 52,400 hectares of 2002 to 2009 Scheme Assets located on land owned by the Gunns Group of companies (**TFE Sale**).

The Scheme Assets were included as part of a joint sale with the Gunns Group Receivers and Managers (**Receivers**). Funds available to Growers from the proceeds of sale totalled \$40.6 million (prior to the deduction of applicable costs) (**TFE Scheme Proceeds**), representing approximately 12.5% of the total sale price.

As noted in our prior Grower updates, the sale was approved by the Court. A Court order was also made that the Liquidators acted properly and reasonably in instructing URS Australia Pty Ltd (**URS**) to provide a proportionate value allocation of the TFE Scheme Proceeds across the GPL Woodlot Schemes.

ii) AFPT

Growers will recall that GPL as responsible entity (**RE**) surrendered interests in approximately 10,000 hectares of 2003, 2006, 2008 and 2009 GPL Woodlot Scheme trees located on Australian Forestry Plantations Trust (Receivers and Manager Appointed) and Australian Forestry Plantations Trust Number 2 (Receivers and Managers Appointed) owned land (together **AFPT**).

As consideration for surrendering the AFPT trees, the Receivers and Managers of AFPT paid GPL in its capacity as RE \$500,000 for the 2003 (Option 1), 2006 (Option 1 and 2), 2008 (Option 1 and 2) and 2009 (Option 2) Schemes.

iii) Sale of MIS resources to third party private landowners

The remaining GPL Scheme Assets are trees located on approximately 51,000 hectares of land owned by private landowners. These are assets of the 2002 to 2009 GPL Woodlot Schemes.

To date we have entered into sale agreements with just over half of GPL third party private landowners. Approximately 15,800 hectares out of 27,065 hectares (excluding trees located on land owned by Forestry Tasmania) were sold to third party landowners (**Third Party Landowner Sale**

Proceeds). A significant benefit of this was the removal of claims by the Landowners for unpaid past and future rent (as described at 2ii) above.

The sale proceeds from entering into the sale agreements with landowners will benefit the pool of Growers in each of the relevant schemes.

iv) **Post appointment proceeds**

The nature of the post appointment proceeds received from the Scheme is predominately made up of compensation payments for loss of resources (eg the removal of grower trees for reasons including a new road or utility installation).

v) **Pre-Appointment funds**

Growers will recall from the Scheme PDS that the RE set up a trust account for the Scheme to hold Grower funds (**Pre-Appointment Funds**). For example, gross harvest proceeds were deposited into this account and any fees due by Growers, for example RE fees, were then paid directly from this account.

The account required a trustee, separate to the RE. Gunns was the trustee of this account. On the appointment of an Administrator to both Gunns and GPL this account was frozen and therefore outside the direct control of the GPL Administrators.

A process to determine the beneficiaries of the funds in this account has been undertaken as there were competing claims made to some of the funds in the account (e.g. RE fees, interest entitlements). The beneficiaries of these funds have been determined and these Scheme funds are now in control of the GPL Liquidators (on trust).

The nature of the pre-appointment proceeds received for the Scheme is predominately made up of compensation payments for loss of resources (eg the removal of grower trees for reasons including a new road or utility installation).

vi) **Other proceeds**

Interest earned on funds held will be paid as part of the distribution process. Note the total amount of interest included in the table is at 31 March 2016 and will be updated on distribution.

5. Application of funds

There are a number of costs that, subject to an order of the Court, will be deducted from the Gross Proceeds (**Approved Scheme Costs**).

These Approved Scheme Costs include:

- (a) Liquidators' and legal costs*
- (b) Costs for winding-up of the scheme once distributions have been completed*.

**Note a portion of these costs have been estimated and may vary*

These Approved Scheme Costs are payable in priority to any payment to Growers. Scheme Costs which relate to more than one GPL Scheme Option have been allocated between the GPL Scheme Options in accordance with the allocation approved by Court.

All Approved Scheme Costs are subject to the review and approval of the Court. All relevant documents in relation to the approval of costs and Court rulings are available on our website:

- www.ppbadvisory.com/creditor-information

For context on the Approved Scheme Costs, Growers will recall that the following key steps have been undertaken to realise the pool of funds from the sale of Scheme assets and resolve competing claims that may have reduced this pool of funds:

Date	Event
September 2012 to March 2013	Court protection measures obtained to prevent the termination of Scheme leases whilst the future of the Schemes was investigated following the collapse of the Schemes RE, GPL.
March 2013 to September 2013	An expression of interest campaign to find a new RE for the Scheme. During this time, significant costs were incurred in relation to the ongoing maintenance of Scheme Assets, administration costs, staff wages and the legal, liquidation and other costs of the RE (circa \$4.4m). These costs have been reviewed by the Court and allowed in full.
October 2013 to December 2013	A sale process for the Scheme Assets given a new RE was not found.
April 2013 to October 2013	AFPT surrender compensation negotiations.
November 2013 to May 2014	AFPT surrender approval and compensation allocation process.
January 2014 to September 2014	TFE Sale approval and completion process.
October 2014 to August 2015	TFE allocation approval process.
July 2014 to March 2016	Conducted lengthy but successful negotiations with landowners to remove claims against the Scheme Assets during which we reduced potential claims by over 52%.
October 2014 to March 2016	Detailed discussions with the ATO and PwC on the treatment of Scheme and RE income tax and GST positions.
March 2013 to March 2016	Court applications for the review and approval of the GPL Liquidator's costs of managing the Schemes.

6. Timing of payments

Please refer to the below timetable for key dates.

Date	Event
20 May 2016	Cut-off date for Growers to update details by completing the Link forms.
From 15 June 2016	Distributions to commence.
Six months from distribution date	Funds distributed to Australian Securities and Investments Commission as unclaimed monies if no contact by Growers is made in the interim.

7. Grower loans

Some Growers in the Scheme entered into loan agreements to fund their initial investment. While some Growers may have repaid their loans in full, other Growers have outstanding loans (**Grower Loans**).

A number of financiers of Grower Loans (**Financiers**) may assert a proprietary interest in and/or security claim over the Grower's distribution proceeds which would otherwise be payable to a Grower, if that Grower has an outstanding Grower Loan.

If there are competing claims by a Grower and their Financier, the Grower's distribution proceeds will be held pending resolution, either by agreement or court order.

Any queries relating to the repayment of Grower loans should be directed to a Growers' Financier.

8. Next steps

As outlined in our update dated 29 February 2016, we will be using an external third party, Link Market Services Limited (**Link**), to assist in an efficient distribution process given approximately there are over 35,000 for who GPL is RE for. Link will shortly be sending further correspondence to Growers requesting details in preparation for the upcoming distribution.

Please complete and return the forms that will be provided by Link by **20 May 2016** in order for us to update your details and distribute the funds according to your current details.

Further questions?

If you have any further questions please address them to the following contacts:

Contact	Contact Phone Number	Contact Email Address
GPL Client Services	(03) 6364 3180	gunns@gunnsplantation.com
PPB Advisory	(03) 9269 4160	gunns@ppbadvisory.com