

Thursday 10th January 2013



Press Release: Future Forests Fiji Limited's Plantations in the provinces of Ra and Nadroga have minimal damage from cyclone Evan

The strength of the wind during tropical cyclone Evan was the strongest experienced so far by FFF plantations in Ra since establishment in 2005. Estimated wind strengths of 100-140km/hr were recorded. Most of the older plantation trees were defoliated but no damage to stem form and the trees continue to grow after the passing of the cyclone. The younger plantations experienced some leaf desiccation near the tips but no damage to stem form and trees continue to re-leaf and grow. In one older compartment only, located on a site with high water table, about 1% of trees were blown over but mainly due to poor root structure associated with the wet site. Just 50 damaged trees will be harvested, sawn and converted into added value finished wood products.

The nursery propagation large and small igloo roofs were damaged despite being tied down but have been repaired within a day. About 15% of young transplants desiccated by strong winds. Many of the rooted cuttings in the mini propagation units did not survive.

Overall damage to the FFF plantations was minimal

The main problem from the cyclone has been the damage to road access by fallen power poles, watercourse washouts and landslips along main access roads preventing easy access to plantations to undertaken essential tree maintenance. The lack of power and water has affected the main office activities and is just being rectified now. No damage to the other buildings, vehicles and other assets was experienced.

Director

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