



Setting the Standards

RIAWA Seminar 20-21 September 2016

Welcome



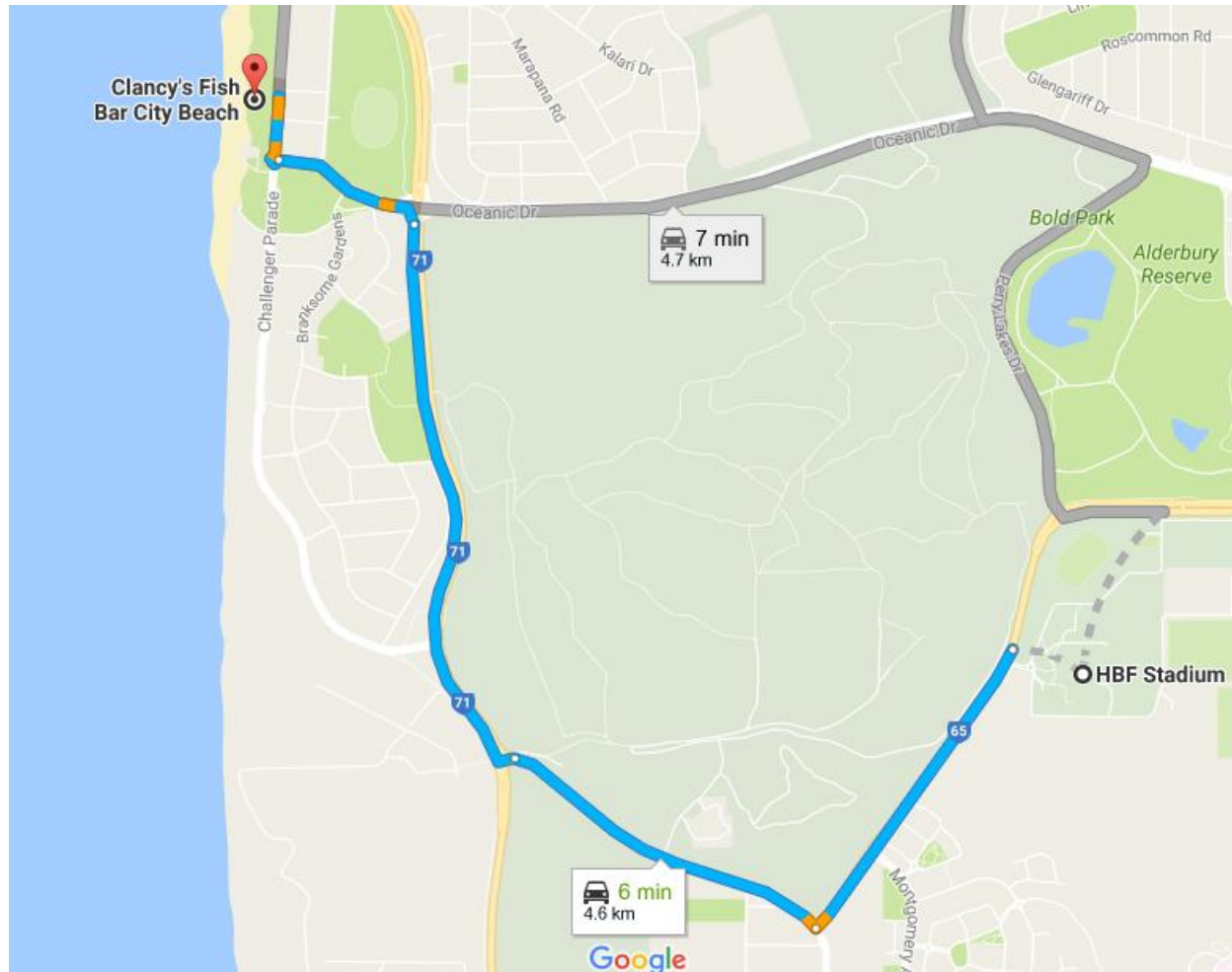
- **WA currently going through tough times as mining boom ends**
- **Downturn in cash flow means many in revegetation industry struggling to survive**
- **Extreme cost cutting, redundancies of skilled staff, “buying work”**
- **Real danger of continued cutting will risk low quality of revegetation outcomes not meeting criteria standards**
- **Could lead to cost prohibitive maintenance and failed outcomes**
- **Still need to set strong standards in revegetation works to reduce this risk**

Program



- **Two Day Seminar**
 - **Day 1 – Standards and Criteria themes**
 - **Day 2 – Projects and Case Study themes**
 - **Light system to keep talks within time**
- **Open Discussions**
 - **Day 1 Topic “Seed Accreditation – Buyers & Sellers Views”**
 - **Day 2 Topic “Adapting to Climate Change”**
 - **Comments to be collated and used by committee**
- **Informal Drinks at end of Day 1 at Clancy’s Fish Pub City Beach**

Clancy's Fish Pub Directions



6 min (4.6 km)



via State Route 65 and W Coast Hwy/State Route 71

5 min without traffic

HBF Stadium, 100 Stephenson Avenue

Mount Claremont WA 6010

- ↑ Head south on Stephenson Ave/State Route 65
1.0 km
- ➔ Turn right onto Rochdale Rd/State Route 65
1.1 km
- ➔ Turn right onto W Coast Hwy/State Route 71
1.8 km
- ⬅ Turn left onto Oceanic Dr
500 m
- 📍 At the roundabout, take the 2nd exit onto Challenger Parade
📘 Destination will be on the left
240 m

Clancy's Fish Bar City Beach, 195 Challenger Parade

Housekeeping



- **Toilets**
- **Evacuation Muster Point out front on grass**
- **Automated Emergency Voice System**
- **Breaks and Lunches**
- **Wifi password –zhmspCWR**
- **Please turn phones on silent**

About RIAWA



- **Formed in 2003 by a collection of corporate, private, and government bodies to provide a voice for the industry**
- **Aims**
 - **have members from all sectors of the industry co-operate in creating a code of practice**
 - **a set of objectives to ensure that all revegetation and rehabilitation works conducted both now and in the future are to the highest standards possible.**
- **Committee of eight members**

What RIAWA offers



- **Networking opportunities**
- **Sharing of information**
- **Seminar Series**
- **Newsletters (articles always welcome!!)**
- **Liaison with other similar associations (ECA, DWG, WSWA, Nursery...)**
- **Promote opportunities to improve standards within industry**

Annual General Meeting



- **Next AGM in 18th October, 10am**
Kings Park Biodiversity Conservation Centre Meeting Room
- **All welcome to attend and apply for committee positions**
- **Some thoughts for following years' actions**
 - **Regional workshops?**
 - **Further improve liaison with other associations?**
 - **Standards/Certification for weed control, seeding, tubestock planting?**



Native Seed Accreditation System

Background



- **Discussions for need of seed standards has been in RIAWA for >10 years**
- **Until now, no official standard for the supply of native seed to revegetation projects. Those purchasing the seed cannot be sure that what they get is of the quality they have paid for.**
- **RIAWA approached to develop an accreditation system, formerly commenced in January 2010.**

Example



In response to a seed supply tender:

- **Supplier A has quoted a lower price**
- **Supplier B has quoted a higher price**

Without any other information or quality standard to be guided by:

- **the buyer is likely to accept the lower price**
- **potentially a high risk of revegetation failure**

But if the Buyer had standards

detail	Supplier A	Supplier B
\$/g	\$0.30	\$0.60
% chaff	60%	30%
% viability	20%	40%
No. viable seeds/g	11	44
\$/100 viable seeds	\$2.72	\$1.36



Advantages for Seed Buyers

- **A better understanding in what quality and type of native seeds they require. Buyers can stipulate their requirements and expectations to their suppliers, particularly when preparing tenders**
- **Compare “apples with apples” in terms of prices and quality offered from different accredited suppliers**
- **Access a list of accredited seed suppliers and collectors from the RIAWA website**

Advantages for Seed Suppliers



- **List of accredited seed suppliers and collectors that seed buyers can readily accessed from the RIAWA website, increasing the likelihood for suppliers to receive enquiries or tenders**
- **Seed buyers better able to stipulate their requirements and expectations to their suppliers, making it easier for suppliers to prepare quotes and manage contracts**
- **Industry recognition of quality to help differentiate their products and services.**
- **Use Accredited logos in marketing**

Application Process

- **Separate levels for suppliers (companies) vs collectors (individuals)**
- **Applicants are to demonstrate:**
 - **Current flora collection licence**
 - **experience in seed industry**
 - **understanding of quality and ethics**
 - **understanding of relevant regulations, guidelines and codes of practice**
 - **adequate seed storage, testing and recording keeping**
- **Accreditation is renewed annually**

Seed Standards

- 1. Seed harvesting**
- 2. Seed processing**
- 3. Seed storage**
- 4. Seed marketing and supply**
- 5. Payment of contractors and staff**
- 6. Seed orchards**
- 7. Ongoing professional training for Collectors**

Seed Grade System



- **Four Grade Levels**
 - **Conservation**
 - **A (Commercial Plus)**
 - **B (Standard Commercial)**
 - **C (Seeding Grade)**
- **Decreasing expectation of information and quality**



Minimum Seed Batch Labelling

- **Unique collection batch number**
- **Genus and species name**
- **Collection date**
- **Quantity in grams/ kilograms**
- **Location of collection (Nearest town/forest block within ten kilometres)**
- **Grade of seed**
- **Accredited Seed Logo**

Additional Seed Batch Labelling

Conservation Grade

- **Cut test (% good seed)**
- **Filled/ viable seeds per gram**
- **Germination test**
- **X-ray test**

A Grade (Commercial Plus)

- **Filled/ viable seeds per gram**

Accreditation Launch



- **Formerly launched in 1st September 2015**
- **Currently have 5 companies accredited**

Teething Problems

- Industry still not aware or understanding of standards
- Very complicated to deal with companies/ individual collectors
- In hindsight, should have had more active discussions with industry
 - Some seed buyers do not wish to lock out suppliers
 - Some regional seed suppliers think system is irrelevant for them
 - Some seed buyers have their own standards
 - Perhaps cost?
 - More issues, yet to be identified

The Future



- **Further Feedback and Discussion**
 - **Promote awareness of Accreditation System across WA**
 - **Currently contacting various members of seed industry across the state**
 - **Ongoing meetings with major seed suppliers and buyers**
 - **Collate feedback from today's open discussion**
- **Revise our approach and standards**

Questions?



- **Topic will be further explored at end of today's open discussion**