# Pioneer Corporation

Submission 21: Attachment B

Opportunity to convert declared Weed of National Significance into fuel source and new value added industries for Northern Australia.

Initial Briefing Document, September 2013

COMPANY NAME SECTOR(S) YEAR ESTABLISHED BUSINESS STAGE PROJECT LOCATION SEEKING Pioneer Corporation Pty Ltd Biofuels and Forestry 1997 Early Stage Richmond, Central West Queensland Advanced Feasibility Funding

**Executive Summary** 

In 1997 Pioneer Corporation identified the potential for establishing hardwood plantations west of Australia's Great Divide; ideally in the North Western regions of Queensland. During of our forestry project assessments we became aware of the introduced Acacia weed that dominates the landscape in the region. Since this discovery we have devoted extensive research, due diligence and secured stakeholder support for an Acacia based project that has the potential to create a significant new industry in some of Australia's remote and regional areas. This extended and consultative phase of work has validated the potential for a cluster of Acacia based ventures to a point now warranting third party validations to a level that meets major funding and investment due diligence.

# **Prickly Acacia**

A declared weed of national significance, Acacia (Nilotica) is commonly referred to as Prickly Acacia.

- In Australia we estimate volume exceeds 100 million tonnes of available biomass, covering 7.5 million hectares (the total landmass of Tasmania) of rich grazing land.
- We have secured Government approval/permit to harvest this resource and legally binding agreements with landholders.
- On December 11, 2001 Pioneer Corporation secured Queensland State Government clearing approval for a 7.5 million hectare area covering five remote municipal shires.
- Without a perceived fair distribution of wealth, the resource will remain underutilized.

# The Team and our Partners

Our team and partners comprise the following:

- Brad Carswell; Qualified Arborist with extensive experience in managing rural sector processing operations and farming and forestry enterprises;
- Peter Laksa; Accomplished Architect and visionary for sustainable businesses based on triple bottom line outcomes;
- Corky's Sustainable Energy, who has previously worked with such companies as Anglo-American, Smorgans Steel, Xstrata Coal and Nepean Mining, will oversee the by-product conversion and utilization processes;
- Rob Gourlay of Orbtek Pty Ltd, an environmental scientist with more than 20 years experience who has developed the Biological Systems for our forestry program;
- E Z Energy, who is involved in the delivery of turnkey energy solutions including generation installations;
- Scott Fairbairn; involved in the delivery of turnkey energy and generation solutions;
- Terry Dohnt, harvesting system designer and manager who will also oversee the establishment of the sawmill;
- All About Pumps & Pipes, specialists in irrigations are for poration Pty Ltd



#### Board & Management:

Brad Carswell - Director

Peter Laksa- Managing Director

**Corporate Structure –** Private Company







# The Opportunity

This pioneering project reflects a novel utilization of a waste resource to provide significant benefits and opportunities in remote regions of Australia: **Business process** 

- Industry development and rural job creation; .
- Improved community connections;
- Power generation and energy security;
- . Export potential;
- Eradication of a declared weed of national significance; .
- Increased grazing capacity;
- Wealth distribution; and
- Carbon abatement and reforestation.

offsets Harvest Acacia Plantations to Establish plantations Supplement Acacia Establish Build nfrastructure Outputs Powe Timber Co-Gen

Carbon

Grazing

Collectively we anticipate that the cluster of associated industries planned for this project has the potential to generate:

- 132 full time direct jobs;
- \$5.1M in annual revenues; (gross)
- . New trades and skills for a region where typically only mining and traditional farming are found;
- New capital investments which could equate to up to \$36 million .
- Sustainable ventures in regions where new projects are limited. .

#### Project Interest and Support

We have conducted extensive and consultative liaison with landholders, indigenous groups, local, State and Federal Governments and representatives of power generation authorities, timber and forestry groups to ensure comprehensive stakeholder input. We have received overwhelming support and endorsement for this project from all of these groups. Similarly key technical experts have praised the merits of this project and encouraged the next phase of technical and financial feasibility.

# Key Activities and Milestones

Our activities in the short to medium term once Advanced feasibility funding is secured will involve:

- Quantified biomass mapping using satellite imagery;
- Producing a quantity of wood pellets from acacia for analysis, along with terrified pellets, in terms of moisture, ash, volatile matter, net calorific value and BTU;
- Establishing Landowner and Right of Entry agreements and legal frameworks;
- Conducting a feasibility study covering all four business areas: Energy, Wood/Torrified pellets, Sawmill, and Forest Estates.
- Completing the harvesting system and finalizing finalize equipment and methodology selection.

# **The Proposal**

The project proponents for this venture are seeking government financial support to assist in funding the preparation by a reputable third party of a detailed and comprehensive feasibility study inclusive of key technical signoffs. The aim of this document would be for it to be then used to attract further investment sufficient to fund all (or part) of planned project stages to completion.

# Contacts

Brad Carswell, Director

Peter Laksa, Managing Director

