The cost of revegetation

A brief summary of trends in costs of revegetation, Furthering our understanding of revegetation and the conclusion.

Trends in total costs of revegetation projects

- Direct seeding is a cheaper method, compared to seedling establishment
  - Little existing data on relative success of methods, in different regions or on different sites.

- Where seedlings are used (seedlings a cheaper option)
  - But may require advanced stock. For what reasons?

- Large cost in revegetation projects
  - Fencing materials
  - Labour cost
  - Seedling cost
  - Tree guards
  - Spraying herbicide

- Cost profile
  - Individual site
  - Decisions made in the strategy for revegetating the site

- Site preparation
  - What hidden cost could be lurking

Further work on interpreting revegetation outcomes

- Results show a need for further study
  - Supply of materials used and
  - Relative success

- A need to understand the success or failure of different methods
  - Not possible to assess a method that’s cheaper at establishment stage, is it really cost effective?
  - Maybe a higher failure rate occurs?
  - If it costs more is it better?
As outlined in the foreword, this report is stage 1 of a two stage project. Stage 11, if funded, will develop a computer based decision support system that will allow both revegetation officers and funding bodies to quickly cost revegetation projects, and establish the cost effectiveness of different decisions.

Perhaps some research is required??

Conclusion

Cost of revegetation vary, for many reasons

- Differing vegetation costs more i.e. hot summers/ drought conditions etc:
  - Higher planting rates
  - Component cost (seedlings - tubes)
  - Weed control
  - Different sites (access, transport)
  - Significantly higher in arid regions (irrigation)
  - Larger projects cost less?

- Direct seeding is often cheaper, than using seedlings (less time)
  - Is it really cheaper? (cost of seed)
  - Less guaranteed survival rate
  - Speedlings cheaper than traditional tubes

- Projects can be designed to minimise costs
  - Evaluation of success of different techniques (needed or even suitable)
  - Funds need to be available in advance (or staged differently)

- What is not costed?
  - Depreciation, wear & tear
  - Collect data on labour costs

As a direct result of this report – will it aid in design of cost effective projects??