

Meeting Record Friday 9 May 2025 at Tāmata Hauhā

Present – Lynette Baish, K Norman, Steve Couper, Robert Cashmore, Tim Rollstone, Mike Barber, Laurie Howell, Lorraine Cook, Jasmine Mitchell, Georgia Hodges, Simon Williamson, Chris Ladd, Pat Hawinkels, Tom Otter, Hannah van Lent, Leigh Christensen, Phill Tetzlaff, Myles Guy, Luke Kirk, Bryony Huirua, George Forster.

On Teams: Karl Boobyer, Damita Mita

Apologies – Sally Strang, Dougal McIntosh

Meeting commenced at 10.15am

#1 Welcome, Introductions and Minutes of the previous meeting.

Lynette opened the meeting with a welcome including housekeeping, then all those present introduced themselves.

Lynette then referred the meeting the purpose of this forum which is written at the top of the agenda:

Transparent communication and cooperation between regulating authorities and the forestry industry in the for better environmental outcomes.

Resolution 1 –

That the minutes of the meeting held 14 February 2025 are received as a true and correct record of the meeting proceedings.

Moved by Lynette Baish

Seconded by Georgia Hodges

#2 Tāmata Hauhā – George Forster - POU WHAKAHAERE NGĀHEREHERE – GROUP MANAGER FORESTRY

Overview of operation –

Co-founded by Blair Jamieson is a New Zealand company dedicated to transforming unproductive or marginal landholdings into productive, sustainable assets. The company partners with landowners- primarily Māori-providing them with strategies, practical funding, and operational support to develop their land, with a focus on both economic and environmental outcomes.

- **Nationwide Impact:** Since its inception in October 2021, Tāmata Hauhā has planted approximately 4,000 hectares of land, stretching from Whangarei to Invercargill, including significant projects such as 200 hectares on the Chatham Islands.
- **Diverse Planting:** The operation emphasizes biodiversity, having planted over 50 different tree species. In some areas, such as a 100-hectare block, up to 13 species have been established.

- **Agri-forestry Initiatives:** Tāmata Hauhā is pioneering agri-forestry models, planting 50–60 stems per hectare to allow for continued grazing or cropping alongside forestry. This approach enables dual land use and maximizes land productivity.
- **Transitional Forestry:** The company supports transitional forestry, moving from exotic to native species over time. This strategy leverages the higher short-term returns from exotics (such as hardwoods) to fund the eventual establishment of native forests, aligning with long-term environmental and cultural aspirations.

#3 Horizons Regional Council

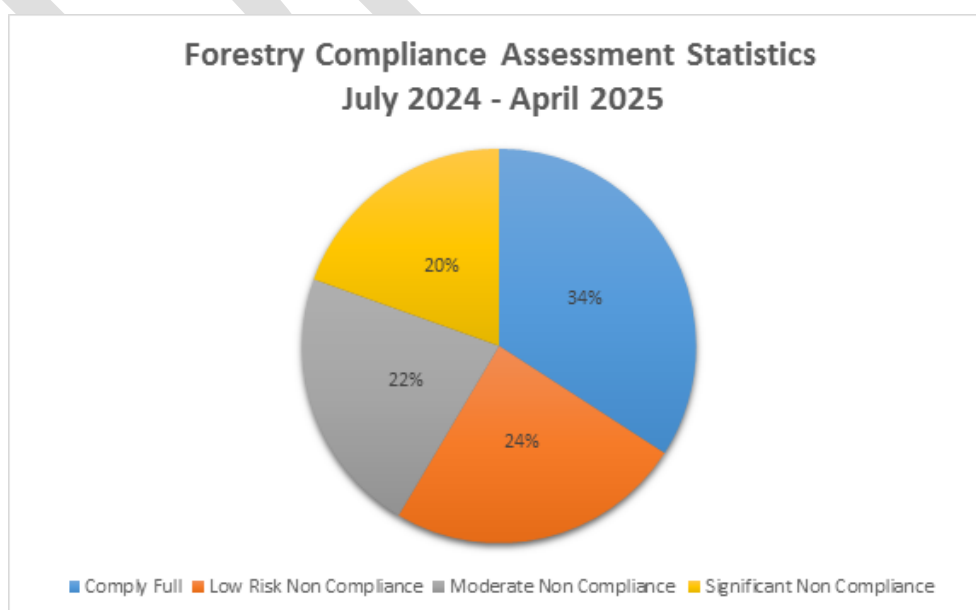
Key topics –

1. Compliance Stats – presented by Georgia Hodges

Discussion included:

- Compliance statistics are to be further broken down to identify causes, total harvest area, and total number of sites.
- *Low Risk* issues are typically technical errors or minor problems that are unlikely to cause adverse environmental effects. These are generally administrative in nature and do not require significant intervention
- Addressing non-compliance sites is highly time-consuming and can detract from the ability to conduct proactive site visits. Horizons Regional Council (HRC) has a set target for the number of site visits per year, but managing non-compliance incidents can impact meeting these targets
- HRC employs two full-time equivalent (FTE) compliance officers who are responsible for all forestry and afforestation compliance activities across the region.
- Compliance data is provided to external agencies such as the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), Ministry for the Environment (MfE), and media outlets upon request, ensuring transparency and accountability in regulatory operations

Action item #1 – Georgia Hodges to include cause, total harvest area or total number of sites in future reporting of compliance stats.



2. Biodiversity under the One Plan – Biodiversity presented by Lorraine Cook, Ecologist at Horizons Regional Council, a copy is attached.

Discussion included:

- Horizons Regional Council (HRC) typically responds to landowner requests for site assessments within two weeks, with most decisions made through collaborative discussions
- **Continuous vs. Discontinuous Habitat:** Classification is based on ecological connectivity, particularly "food gaps" that disrupt species movement.
- While some wetlands are clearly defined as Significant Natural Areas (SNAs), others require expert evaluation due to variability in hydrology and vegetation
- Activities in SNAs must avoid adverse effects such as habitat reduction, ecosystem disruption, or fragmentation. Quantitative damage thresholds exist but often require ecologist input for accurate assessment.
- HRC's *One Plan* (2024) takes precedence over National Environmental Standards (NES) regulations (e.g., reg93) where stricter rules apply, particularly for land use near waterways or in ecologically sensitive areas
- The *One Plan* mandates larger setbacks than NES in many cases, prioritizing long-term ecological restoration over short-term land use
- Funding opportunities for farmers to retire area's – speak directly with Lorraine or email: biodiversity@horizons.co.nz
- Developing a consultant list that could be issued to operators as they are not allowed to recommend a particular consultant

#3 Industry – Lynette Baish

Key topics -

1. NES/NPS requirements and consent applications for residues in orange and red zone presented by Lynette Baish, Ernslaw One, a copy is attached. Key discussion included:
 - Horizons Regional Council (HRC) uses a landslide susceptibility scale, typically informed by national models that classify land into four risk categories: low, moderate, high, and very high, based on slope, land cover, and vegetation
 - Replanting rule – when retiring pockets of forest, landowners must decide what to replant – options include native species or commercial exotics like eucalyptus
 - A Gisborne project was talked about high lighting the need to balance profitability with land resilience, carbon farming and environmental health
 - Windthrow, waterways and commercial opportunities for waste pulp including fiscal costs vs environmental cost
 - Validation of slash residue modelling and the various providers available. Regulators generally accept these models as guidelines and can vary by council. The condition of the cut-over area (post-harvest) and any corrective actions taken or in place are also considered.
 - Previous changes to NES were rushed and the guidance was not completely updated to help industry interpret these changes – Ernslaw took the approach of front footing this and working through their own interpretation. Whilst it is a national standard there is variation at Regional Council interpretation however as a collective, they are working on this

#4 General Business

- Develop a work programme for the year – everyone was to think about what they want to get out of these meetings and how we could do this.
- August meeting agenda items - HRC Scientist, Judicial Review at Chatham Islands

- August meeting venue – Horizons Regional Council
- MPI Update – holding NESCF workshops nationally over the next 6-8 weeks, findings to be reported

Meeting concluded at 1234.pm.

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