

Meeting Record Wednesday 28 May 2025

Present –Andy Warren (Chair), Seamus Bardol, Matt Owen, Jackie Egan, Reuben Hawtree, Fraser Toulmin, Sarah Orton, Simon Callaghan, Ross Green, Todd Cheeseman, Sarah Wilson, Bridget Robson, Rafael Moradei, David Butler, Elise Hayes, Cherie Rangiahua, Brigid Preston & Damita Mita CNI Wood Council

Apologies – Les Russell, Matt Dodd, Elise Hayes, Mike Collins, Paraone Butler,

Meeting commenced at 10.30am

#1 Welcome & Introductions

Those present introduced themselves.

Minutes of the meeting held 19 February 2025

Resolution 1

That the minutes of the meeting held 19 February 2025 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Moved by Bridget Robson

Seconded Sally Strang

Carried unanimously.

#2 Risk Analysis for Slash -

Sally Strang provided an overview of Brigid Preston's recent update to the NZFOA Environmental Committee. The update included news that the Minister is expected to announce proposed changes by the end of this month regarding the NES-CF, Freshwater, and Urban Development regulations. While specific details were not available, it is anticipated that the announcement will propose revising the slash rule to a risk-based model.

Fraser Toulmin confirmed that the review is expected to cover regulation 6(1a), regulation 69, and several technical aspects of the NES-CF. He also reported on the second National Compliance Audit Group meeting, held in Wellington last month, which included representatives from 14 of the 16 Regional and Unitary Authorities West Coast and Nelson City have since come on board. During the audit, the group met with Karl Yager (MPI), who was unable to share details of the upcoming announcement due to non-disclosure agreements, but we did talk about the intent of the proposed recommendations.

The audit process involved splitting councils into two tiers based on their activity levels: Tier 1 audited 10 files, and Tier 2 audited five. The next meeting will include consented activities, with the reporting period set between each audit meeting. The next audit period will run from 1 May 2025 until the 2026 audit meeting. Fraser is preparing a report on the meeting and will share relevant sections once completed.

Key discussion points of the meeting included:

- The management plan stage in the NES-PF cannot be used as a drafting tool, unlike with consents.
- One key difference between permitted activity under the NES-CF and consented activities, is there is no chance for regional councils apply consent conditions differently, reflecting local factors. Many councils did away with Regional Forestry rules in 2018 when the NES-PF came into being. Bay of Plenty is one of those.
- Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BOPRC) policy staff have drafted suggested forestry rules around setbacks for specific catchments.
- The national audit group were able to draft triggers for significant non-compliance. They are intended to be primarily related to active discharge to water and erosion risks (e.g., landings giving way). The group is working towards national consistency on key non-compliance triggers during site inspections.

The discussion returned to the anticipated Ministerial announcement. The NZFOA Environmental Committee will coordinate an industry/forest owner's response and encourage others to submit and alignment with their recommendations in submissions. The National Compliance Audit Group will also submit feedback on behalf of the CESIG

Following further general discussion on submissions, it was agreed as an action, that:

Action point #1 - NZFOA Environmental Committee and the Regional Council's National Compliance Audit Group meet to agree points for the submissions on any proposed changes to the NES -CF and the NPS for Biodiversity.

Brigid Preston joined the meeting and confirmed the Minister will make an announcement tomorrow. A copy of her presentation is attached. Key points included:

- Details of the consultation period, planned communications, meetings, and webinars.
- MfE will undertake the submission analysis process.
- MPI would like to see an exposure draft of the regulations and form an expert group for detailed review. Fraser confirmed that the National Regional Council group communicated this to Karl Yager.
- There was consensus that Regional Councils and industry should align their submission recommendations.
- Four packages are expected to be announced, including a Primary Sector package. Seven areas are under review, with the NES-CF being the focus for forestry. Forestry stakeholders will also want to comment on the Freshwater package. Once released, Bay of Plenty Regional Council will review the proposals from a forestry perspective.

Action Point #2: CNIWC will organise a Rotorua meeting in week four of the consultation period (end of June/early July) and circulate any additional information received.

Manulife Investment Management: Slash Consent Process

Sally Strang shared a presentation on Manulife Investment Management's process for Slash Consents. A copy of the presentation is attached which covered:

- Use of Landslide Susceptibility mapping. MIM commissioned Landcare Mapping to undertake susceptibility mapping of specific forests. The group also discussed the possibility of national mapping and potential funding options (Regional Councils, Government, FGLT).
- Bridget Robson shared a link to MPI's Erosion Process for Forest and Harvest Planning Report, outlining an alternative assessment process.
<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/68619-Erosion-processes-for-forest-and-harvest-planning>
- Notification to Regional Council is required within 48 hours of an event exceeding 100mm rainfall in 24 hours. If this is not feasible, it is acceptable to advise the council and provide reasons.
- General discussion covered regional differences, discrepancies between Interpine and ground-truth data, and the use of a rolling average per hectare to calculate residual slash.

#3 General Business

- **Final Compliance Audit Inspections:** On behalf of Mike Collins and Paraone Butler, it was noted that final compliance audit inspections (for permitted activity) prior to land handover are becoming more common with larger forests. If required by civil contracts, BOPRC will conduct these audits, which are deemed compliant only at the time of inspection. Should issues arise later (e.g., after six months), BOPRC will assess responsibility.
- **District Council Monitoring:** BOPRC is collaborating with District Councils to undertake their monitoring through a warrant process.
- **Field Trip:** The Q4 meeting will now include a field trip, with invitations extended to a couple of representatives from Waikato Regional Council as observers.
- **Kauri Protection Guideline:** Andy Warren to send a copy for circulation

Meeting schedule and Chair -

Q	Date	Chair/Venue
3	20 August	Colin Maunder/BOPRC
4	19 November	Field trip

Meeting concluded at 12.15pm

Action Points

	Action	By	Status
1	NZFOA Environmental Committee and the Regional Council's National Compliance Audit Group meet to agree points for the submissions on any proposed changes to the NES -CF and the NPS for Biodiversity	SS	
2	CNIWC will organise a Rotorua meeting in week four of the consultation period (end of June/early July) and circulate any additional information received	DM	

Seven Meeting Goals: there should be one meeting goal per agenda item which describes the primary outcome:

Advance the Thinking - workshop

Build Capacity – developing skills, training

Make Decisions – bringing an issue to a close

Share Information – reporting, no discussion

Build Community – celebrations, team building

Improve Communication – feelings, relationships

Obtain Input – feedback, for consideration only

DRAFT