

Meeting Record Friday 14 February 2025

Present – Lynette Baish, Myles Guy, Leigh Christensen, Rob Cashmere, John Reid, Simon Williamson, Kathy Norman, J Cumming, Dave Byrne, Luke Kirk, Malte Coulman, Josh (NZFM), Tim Rillstone, Joel Scott, Jason Ashworth, Susan Benson, Chris Ladd, Damita Mita, Georgia Hodges, Jasmine Mitchell

On Teams: Sally Strang, Jackie Egan, Cassandra Griffin, Karl Boobyer, Jason Loveridge

Apologies – Ben Douglas (FMNZ), Mike Cranstone

Meeting commenced at 10am

#1 Welcome & Introductions

Lynette opened the meeting with a welcome including housekeeping and a Whakatauki.

Those present introduced themselves.

#2 Horizons Regional Council – Georgia Hodges and Jasmine Mitchell

Key topics:

1. Compliance statistics – currently sitting at 40% compliant.
2. Major issues – earthworks, river crossings and biodiversity
3. Consenting – to date have received 10 consents and dealt with 4 retrospective consents which is less than expected. HRC have appreciated the number of notices being received and asked that they include any ancillary activities, if needed e.g. river crossings.

Here followed discussion which included:

- A missed notification that resulted in HRC requiring a landowner to apply for resource consent, as the landowner wanted to register the forest under the ETS. Whilst the forest management company acknowledged it was their error in not notifying for planting/afforestation (due to a change in personnel), HRC were aware of the planting activity (through their Land Management Team), and asked how this could be better managed in the future.

The HRC land team are currently working through this with the SLUI farms that are in this position. There are options including a retrospective deemed permitted activities, but each situation will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. The driver being enabling the forest to be registered into the ETS and being able to demonstrate the activity is permitted.

- Notification process – it was discussed this has got more complicated than was intended when NES-PF was developed. The intent of it was to let regional councils know where and when forestry activities are occurring. HRC's process is more detailed than other regional councils with some of this is due to ETS registration requirements. For instance, requirement to provide a RAPID number.

Action item #1 – Sally Strang to discuss with MPI/TUR a solution that will reduce the time commitment on both industry and HRC.

- The meeting then circled back to the 40% rate of compliance – HRC reported that large/established forestry companies are doing ok. Issues are coming from the smaller operators when picking up harvest blocks. Large operators generally have more lead in time to prepare for a harvesting operation, specialist in-house personnel and in some cases established infrastructure. Whereas the smaller operators are generally more focussed on getting the wood out and often have very little lead in time. HRC have been working with the smaller operators but are limited to what they can do, and, in some cases, they will need to engage a consultant to assist them to meet regulation requirements.

HRC would like to have a list of consultants that they could issue to the operators as they are not allowed to recommend a particular consultant.

The earthworks side of harvesting is one of the other key areas where issues are stemming from. So, it was asked how industry could increase knowledge and experience in this area. The NZ Forest engineering best practise guidelines was discussed. It was noted by industry (Joel) that guidelines are not the measure and that the regulations are what you have to meet. Earth works non-compliance can come from one skid site or one track which can dictate the overall grading of the whole site.

The other key area reported was biodiversity which is complex and not easy to interpret. This has a set of rules under the HRC, Regional Plan, as amended December 2024 (One Plan), outside of the NES-CF that only applies to this region. HRC's biodiversity team can provide field & desktop assessments which is a free service and will tell you if the biodiversity site present is a rare, threatened or at-risk habitat under the One Plan. However, the meeting was cautioned that you need to book in with a reasonable amount of lead in time to access the service.

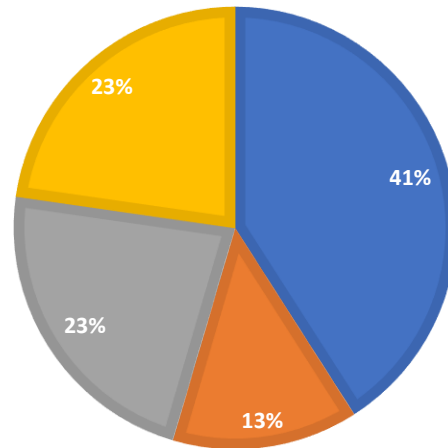
This led onto a discussion around mapping SNA sites. Which is specific to Territorial Authorities/District Councils. It is important to note that SNA sites (under the NES-CF) are a TA/DC duty and often don't include the full extent of the sites that are classified as Rare, threatened or At-Risk habitat under the One Plan. HRC are currently in discussions with District Councils around mapping of these SNA sites.

- Reporting and monitoring of non-compliance – HRC have a monitoring plan that is fluid and will change year to year depending on resource. Typically, the approach is to proactively monitor every site that is consented. Permitted activities sites are run through a risk grading process which determines which of these sites will be monitored. Generally, HRC will target monitoring to the high-risk sites, but will also undertake reactivate monitoring of sites following a public complaint.

It was asked if the non-compliance rate could be reported as low risk/high risk as a 60% non-compliant rate sends a negative message and perception about the forestry industry. HRC agreed that 60% is high but they don't get a lot of discrepancy around how it is reported however regulatory reporting to the council through the environmental committee has more breakdown. The statistics are per forest and per assessment regardless of size.

COMPLIANCE STATS 01-07-24 TO 14-2-25

■ Full Compliance ■ Low Risk Non Compliance
■ Moderate Non Compliance ■ Significant Non Compliance



Action item #2 – Georgia Hodge to provide compliance data as an agenda item for future meetings.

- HRC confirmed that commercial harvesting includes a forest less than a hectare and therefore triggers the notification requirement (it excludes shelterbelts). This comes under the One Plan rules (not NES-CF) and can be notified using the same process as NES-CF notification. Notification is required per forest (with the definition of a forest being continuous forest cover). The notification period for this is less than the NES-CF. Rule Appended for your information.
- Consents for NES-CF slash regulations. HRC have received 2 consents and there a couple more coming in. Should there be more than this? HRC are still exploring options on the best way to monitor this, as the guidance material isn't clear. Windthrow prior to the commencement of harvesting is not included as residual slash.

#3 Industry – Sally Strang/Myles Guy

Update of the Review of the Forestry ECOP

This is a national programme that MPI opted (under the NES-CF) to develop best practice guidelines which the NZFOA Environmental Committee has been reviewing over the past two years.

Target audience for this are: those who prepare resource consent applications and management plans, students studying forestry and they said it was going to be circulated for review to councils.

#4 General Business

The following meeting format was agreed to:

- Quarterly meetings – Feb/May/Aug/Nov
- Chair – appointed a Chair for the year which Lynette Baish has accepted
- Develop a work programme for the year
- Venue – to be confirmed

Meeting concluded at 12pm.

Appendix 1.

Rule LF LAND R2 – Non Plantation Forestry (*Forestry less than 1ha*)

Rule	Activity	Classification	Conditions/Standards/Terms
LF-LAND-R2 Non-plantation forestry	<p>Except as regulated by RP-ECO-R1 and RPECO-R2, any non-plantation forestry* pursuant to s9(2) RMA, and as an ancillary activity* any:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. disturbance of the bed* of a river* or lake* pursuant to s13(1) RMA by nonplantation forestry*, or 2. diversion of water* pursuant to s14(2) RMA on the land* (but not within a river*) where the non-plantation forestry* is undertaken, or 3. discharge* of sediment or slash* into water* or onto or into land* that may enter water* pursuant to s15(1) or 15(2A) RMA resulting from the non-plantation forestry*. 	<p>Permitted</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The activity must not take place on land* that is within a coastal foredune*. 2. Any earthworks, the formation of any new track* and any planting or replanting of non-plantation forestry* trees must not occur on land* that is in, or within 5 m of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the bed* of a river* that is permanently flowing b. the bed* of a lake* c. a rare habitat*, threatened habitat* or at-risk habitat*. unless the new track* or earthworks in (2)(a) or (2)(b) is: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. necessary to connect to and from a formed river* crossing point that is a consented or permitted activity, and/or ii. for the purpose of the maintenance* or upgrade* of an existing track* or earthwork. 3. Any new planting of non-plantation forestry* trees and associated formation of any new track* or earthworks must not occur on land* that is in, or within 10 m of wetland* habitat types (including lakes*) as defined in RP-SCHED6. 4. Any earthworks or the formation of any new track* must not occur on land* that is in, or within 10 m of a reach of a river* or its bed* with a RP-SCHED2 Value of Trout Spawning or Trout Fishery, unless the new track* or earthworks is: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. necessary to connect to and from a formed river* crossing point that is a consented or permitted activity, and/or b. for the purpose of the maintenance* or upgrade* of an existing track* or earthwork. 5. If any rare habitat*, threatened habitat* or at-risk habitat* is present within 5 m of an area of non-plantation forestry* prior to undertaking harvesting an Operational Plan*, detailing measures taken to avoid or mitigate adverse effects* on these areas, must be prepared and submitted to the Regional Council at least 48

			<p>hours prior to harvesting commencing and the Operational Plan* must be complied with.</p> <p>6. Any area of non -plantation forestry* that is harvested (other than firebreaks, tracks*, landing sites* or areas in (1) and (2)) must be planted or replanted to protect from erosion as soon as practicable and no later than 18 months from the date of the harvesting, unless the area is left to revegetate naturally.</p> <p>7. Water*^ run -off controls must be installed and maintained for tracks* and landing sites*.</p> <p>8. Batters, cuts and side castings must be established by methods that prevent slumping.</p> <p>9. Felled vegetation must be felled away from and not be dragged through any waterbody* other than where this is necessary to avoid endangering the health and safety of workers, or where it is unavoidable and is the best harvest method such as, but not limited to, hauling through corridors or butt extraction, and a. any discharge * resulting from the activity must not, after reasonable mixing, breach the water* quality standards for change in visual clarity identified for that waterbody* set out in RP - SCHED5 , and b. the activity must not occur in a waterbody* with a Trout Spawning Value identified in RP - SCHED2 during the trout spawning season (1 May to 30 September inclusive), and c. the activity must not occur in a waterbody* greater than 5 m in width, and d. the activity must not occur in an area listed in (2)(c).</p> <p>10. Harvesting must be planned and carried out so as to minimise the amount of slash* discharging^ into any area listed in (2)(a) and (b) and entering any area listed in (2)(c).</p> <p>11. Slash* must be removed from within areas listed in (2)(a) where it is blocking river* flow, or is diverting river* flow and causing bank erosion.</p> <p>12. Slash* associated with landing sites* and processing sites* must be placed on stable ground and contained to prevent accumulated slash from causing erosion or land* instability.</p>
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			<p>13. The use of mobile machinery in or on the bed* of a river* with a RP -SCHED2 Value of Trout Spawning in a manner that disturbs the bed* of the active flowing channel must not take place during the trout spawning season (1 May to 30 September inclusive).</p> <p>14. The use of mobile machinery in or on the bed* of a river* with a RP -SCHED2 Value of Whitebait Migration in a manner that disturbs the bed* of the active flowing channel must not take place 15 August to 30 November (inclusive).</p> <p>15. The activity must be undertaken in accordance with an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan* which must be submitted to the Regional Council upon request.</p> <p>16. Any discharge* resulting from the activity must not, after reasonable mixing, breach the water* quality standards for change in visual clarity identified for that waterbody* set out in RPSCHED5.</p> <p>17. Regional Council must be notified at least 48 hours prior to the activity commencing.</p>
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Appendix 2.

69 Permitted activity conditions: slash and debris management

- (1) Slash from harvesting that is produced at or on a landing must be placed onto stable ground.
- (2) Slash from harvesting that is at or on a landing must be managed to avoid the collapse of—
 - (a) a slash pile; or
 - (b) the ground under a slash pile.
- (3) Slash from harvesting must not be deposited into a water body or onto the land that would be covered by water during a 5% AEP event.
- (4) If subclause (3) is not complied with, slash from harvesting must be removed from a water body and the land that would be covered by water during a 5% AEP flood event, unless to do so would be unsafe, to avoid—
 - (a) blocking or damming of a water body;
 - (b) eroding river banks;
 - (c) significant adverse effects on aquatic life;
 - (d) damaging downstream infrastructure, property, or receiving environments, including the coastal environment.
- (5) On orange zone and red zone land (as described in [regulation 63\(2\)\(b\)](#)), slash from harvesting that is sound wood must be removed from the cutover, unless it is unsafe to do so, if it has—
 - (a) a length of over 2 m; and
 - (b) a large-end diameter of over 10 cm.
- (6) However, residual slash may be left on the cutover.
- (7) In this regulation,—

residual slash means a quantity of the slash required to be removed under subclause (5) not exceeding 15 m³ per hectare of the cutover

sound wood means wood that can be safely lifted using harvesting equipment and transferred to a landing without degrading or breaking up.

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