

Waikato Regional Council (WRC) - Forestry Liaison Group

TERMS OF REFERENCE

With the introduction of the National Environmental Standard for Commercial Forestry and increased extremes in weather driven by climate change there exists a need for increased collaboration between regulators and industry. Collaboration is needed to ensure practitioners in the industry are all operating at the same standard and regulators have realistic and practical methods and tools of implementing the NES-CF.

1. Purpose and Aims of the Forestry Liaison Group

The following purpose and aims are designed to capture the essence of the group.

Purpose

“Transparent communication and cooperation between regulating authorities and the forestry industry in the Waikato, for sustainable environmental outcomes.”

Aims

- To develop and maintain relationships between Foresters, stakeholders and regulating authorities.
- To promote sustainable management of natural and physical resources in line with regulations and industry best practice.
- To facilitate a forum that promotes the exchange of ideas, concerns and learning between Foresters, stakeholders the regulating authorities.
- To discuss industry, central and local government policy, and regulatory issues in an informal “without prejudice” setting.
- To share and discuss innovative ideas which will benefit the forest industry and the environment.
- To report and discuss compliance matters and statutory obligations.
- Hold relevant field trips/days and demonstrations as required.

2. Frequency and Membership

The group will aim to meeting 2-3 times per year with an opportunity for 1 to be a field trip.

Permanent membership would be limited to those with a forestry, regulatory compliance, and environmental management focus:

- Forest Managers/ Owners
- Regulating Authorities (Regional and District Council(s))

- Central Government Agencies (MPI, Te Uru Raukau etc.)
- Department of Conservation
- Independent forestry advisors and consultants
- Farm Forestry representatives
- Forest Contractor organisation representatives, Harvest, Engineering & Silviculture,
- NGO Stakeholders Fish & Game Council.

The group may co-opt additional attendees where expertise is required to address a particular topic(s).

Permanent members are to nominate a 'back-up' to attend in their place if they're unable to. This will ensure continuity and consistency of the group.

Quorum

The quorum for the meeting will be six permanent members.

Host Responsibilities

- Book venue
- Call for agenda items and distribute agenda,
- Minute taking and distribute draft minutes prior to next meeting, and
- Upon need or specific reason (s) host to facilitate 'field trip'.

Chairperson

The group will utilise a rotating Industry Chairperson. They would hold the role for at least a quarter, chairing the meeting and responsible for organising venue, invites, agenda, and minutes.

The Chair would be selected at the previous meeting. The tasks being undertaken in liaison with CNI Wood Council support staff.

Agenda

The scope of content for future meetings should focus on:

- Improving environmental standards and consistency,
- Improving clarity and understanding of the NES-CF,
- Lessons learned and shared experiences,
- Discussions on any proposed or recent legislative/ policy changes,
- Technical discussions (slash in streams/ culverts etc.), and
- Biosecurity and biodiversity.

It will be a standing agenda item for WRC to discuss any identified non-compliance from the previous quarter, to allow collective learning.

NB: Circumstance/remediation of identified Non-Compliance may drive the Annual Field Trip.