

Forestry

in Hawke's Bay



HAWKES BAY
REGIONAL COUNCIL

TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O TE MATAU-A-MĀUI

Biodiversity in forests

Plantation forests can provide habitat for native plants and animals, including threatened species. For example, karearea/ bush falcon favour planted forest due to high densities of prey species, optimal hunting conditions and abundant nesting sites.

Wetlands present within forests provide habitat for species adapted to wet conditions. They also contribute to forest productivity and resiliency through impacting the water cycle and improving water quality by filtering sediment and nutrients.



Environmental management

The National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry (NES-CF) came into effect on 3 November 2023, replacing the NES-PF (Plantation Forestry).

The NES-CF has standardised conditions and consent requirements across New Zealand to increase certainty and efficiency in commercial forestry, while maintaining and improving environmental outcomes.

If you have a forestry block larger than one hectare that was planted specifically for commercial activities, then the NES-CF applies to you.

To understand what you need to do to meet the NES-CF, head to the Ministry for Primary Industry's website and look at the standards, the Erosion Susceptibility Classification and Fish Spawning Indicator mapping tools, as well as the Wilding Tree Risk calculator.



The NES-CF sets out rules for eight plantation forestry activities:

1. Afforestation
2. Pruning and thinning to waste
3. Earthworks
4. River crossings
5. Forest quarrying
6. Harvesting
7. Mechanical land preparation
8. Replanting
9. Ancillary Activities (Slash Traps)

Most forestry activities are permitted by the NES-CF so long as specific conditions are met to prevent significant adverse environmental effects. If these conditions can't be met, then you'll need to apply for a resource consent.

Before activities 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8 begin, you must give written notice to the Regional Council through our website **[hbrc.govt.nz](https://www.hbrc.govt.nz)**, **search #forestry**, and in some cases, your district council. Activities 2 and 7 do not require notice, but you must comply with conditions of the NES-CF.

For afforestation, quarrying, earthworks, harvesting and replanting, you are also required to prepare and submit management plans for each activity. River crossings (except fords) require design calculations.

You can find what needs to be included in management plans under schedule 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the NES-CF.



Liability

If you're entering into an agreement for another person or company to harvest the trees on your land, you will need to consider the environmental outcomes and potential liabilities that you will inherit during the works and once harvesting has finished. As the landowner, you may be held liable for works undertaken by those who you have employed or contracted. Under the Resource Management Act you could be prosecuted for "permitting" the offence to occur, or by being vicariously liable for the actions of your employees or contractors.

There is further guidance on the Regional Council's website to help you understand your responsibilities and what your liability might be.

Go to **hbrc.govt.nz** and search **#forestry**. For further information visit the MPI website.





Key contacts

For general NES-CF related enquiries get in touch with the Consents Advisor **06 833 8090**.

For funding options and advice for erosion control please contact a Catchment Adviser at your local Regional Council office on **06 835 9200**.

Other contacts

Farm Forestry New Zealand Association
nzffa.org.nz

Hawke's Bay Farm Foresters Association
tetokatrust@gmail.com
06 879 7962

Hawke's Bay Forestry Group
hbforestrygroup.co.nz

New Zealand Forest Owners Association
nzfoa.org.nz