

Report No.	18-114
Decision Required	

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARD FOR PLANTATION FORESTRY - IMPLEMENTATION

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. This report updates members on the proposed amendments to align the **National Environmental Standard for Plantation Forestry (NES-PF)** and One Plan. This involves inserting advice notes following Rule 13-3 *Forestry* and in the definition of *Forestry* in the Glossary.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 18-114 and Annexes.
- b. resolves to amend Chapter 13 and the Glossary of the One Plan in accordance with **Annex A** and **Annex B** respectively.

3. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 3.1. This amendment to the One Plan will have no impact on existing budgets.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 4.1. This amendment is required to implement the NES-PF and does not require community engagement.

5. SIGNIFICANT BUSINESS RISK IMPACT

- 5.1. There will not be a significant business risk impact resulting from this report.

6. BACKGROUND

- 6.1. The NES-PF contains nationally consistent rules for plantation forestry. It was made operative on 1 May 2018. The NES-PF replaces Rule 13-3 in the One Plan with respect to plantation forestry.
- 6.2. This report follows on from information presented to the Environment Committee meeting on 10 April 2018 [Report No. 18-51, section 11]. In that report [clauses 11.13 to 11.18] it was acknowledged that alignment of the One Plan with the NES-PF was required and it was recommended that this be done in a straightforward manner to keep things as simple as possible for One Plan Users.

7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1. It was proposed in the report that *“an advisory note directing One Plan users to the NES-PF be added to Chapter 13 of the One Plan, along with cross-references to One Plan schedules or parts of schedules that will be used as references for terms used in the NES-PF such as significant natural areas, outstanding freshwater bodies and outstanding natural features and landscapes in the Manawatū-Whanganui Region.”*

- 7.2. Cross references to One Plan Schedules mean that natural resources will be given the same protection when implementing the NES-PF as they currently have under the One Plan NES-PF, e.g., indigenous biological diversity.
- 7.3. The One Plan Permitted Activity for Forestry [Rule 13-3] is retained because it will continue to regulate non-plantation forestry activities such as soil conservation forestry, carbon sequestration forestry and, conceivably, Manuka plantations that will not be harvested for commercial gain.
- 7.4. Making these amendments is able to be done using **Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)** s44A (*Local authority recognition of national environmental standards*) now that the NES-PF has come into force. Taking this approach means that a formal plan Schedule 1 plan change process is not required.
- 7.5. The recommended advice notes are set out in **Annexes A and B**.

8. CONSULTATION

- 8.1. Under RMA, s44A these amendments to the One Plan can be made without undertaking the RMA Schedule 1 process, therefore, public and stakeholder consultation is not required.

9. TIMELINE / NEXT STEPS

- 9.1. Following Council's resolution to amend the One Plan, the amendments will be incorporated into the Plan and any further procedural steps such as notifying the Minister for the Environment and updating Horizons' website) carried out.

10. SIGNIFICANCE

- 10.1. This is not a significant decision according to the Council's Policy on Significance and Engagement.

Josh Knowles
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ANNEXES

- A Chapter 13 - One Plan
- B Glossary - One Plan