

Delivering National Consistency for Plantation Forestry

Briefing to New Zealand Farm Forestry Association National
Committee Meeting

5 November 2014

Growing and Protecting New Zealand





1. Introduction

Where we've come from, and the approach taken

1. Introduction

Purpose

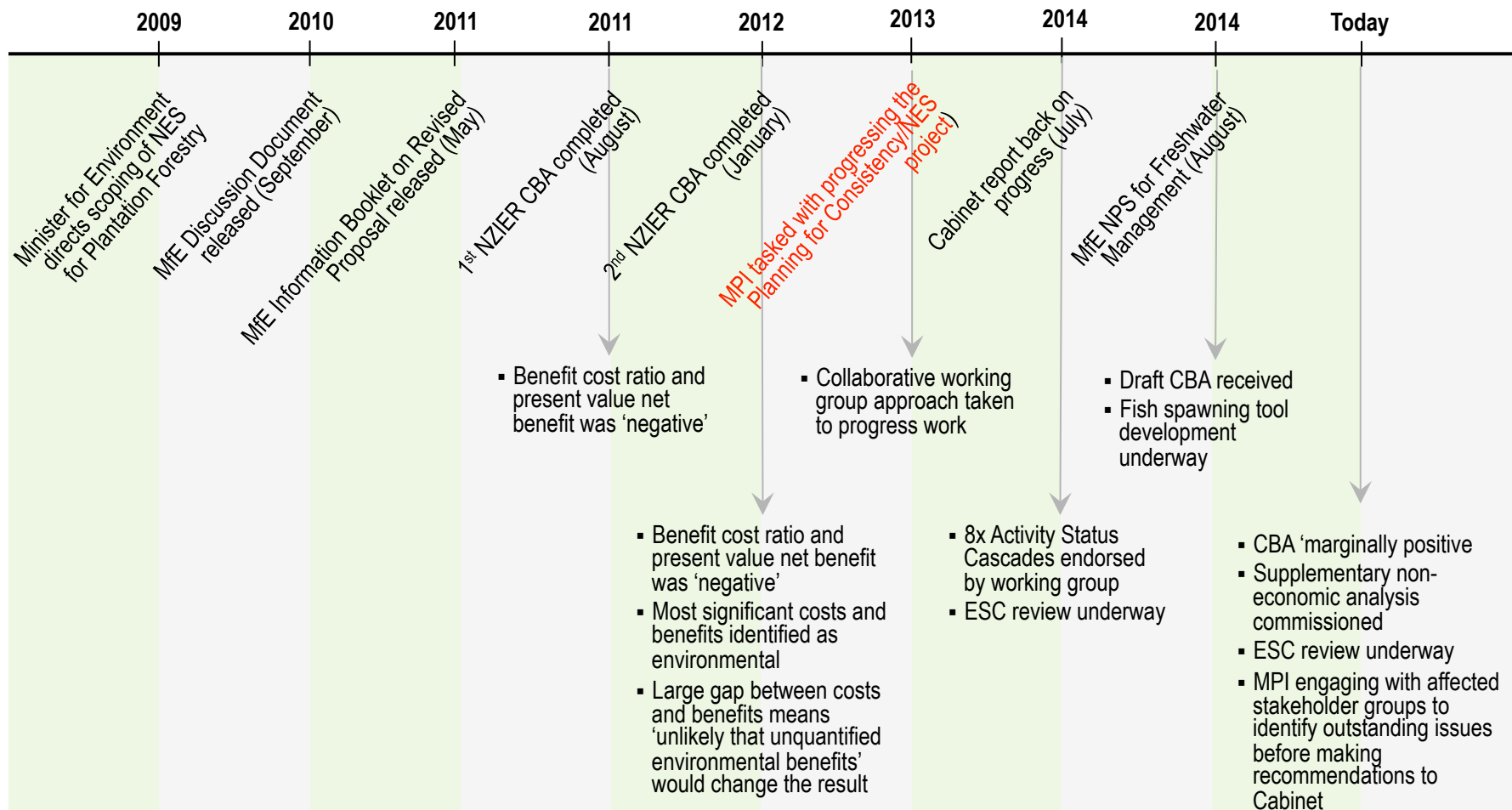
1. To provide an overview of the work to achieve national consistency for plantation forestry under the RMA
2. Outline upcoming engagement activities and receive feedback on approach and content

Walk-out aims

1. History of the Project understood.
2. Importance of the Activity Status Cascades understood.
3. The key information inputs that will impact the work understood.
4. Feedback on engagement approach captured.

1. Introduction (cont'd)

Timeline:



1. Introduction (cont'd)

1. In April 2013 Cabinet deferred work on the National Environmental Standard for Plantation Forestry while RMA and water reforms were underway
2. Due to strong stakeholder support Cabinet directed MPI to continue to explore potential planning tools to deliver greater national consistency for plantation forestry
3. MPI has identified two main issues that need to be addressed through this tool:
 - Investment uncertainty and operational inefficiency resulting from varied planning rules between districts and regions
 - Undesirable environmental outcomes in some parts of the country as a result of broad based planning rules

1. Introduction (cont'd)

1. MPI, supported by MfE, working collaboratively with multi-stakeholder working group, including:
 - local government
 - environmental non-governmental organisations (e-NGOs)
 - forestry sector representatives.
2. Working collaboratively is key – the working group has met every 4 – 6 weeks for the last 12 months and is expected to progress tasks between meetings.
3. Additionally, MPI has been meeting or has planned engagement with other affected stakeholder groups to get their views i.e. New Zealand Farm Foresters Association, Council Representatives, Iwi Groups

A photograph of a forest with a semi-transparent text box overlaid. The forest consists of many tall, thin, vertical tree trunks, likely pines or firs, with a dense canopy of green needles above. The ground is covered in dry, brownish vegetation and fallen branches. The text box is a light gray rectangle with a thin black border, containing the title and subtitle in black text.

2. Activity Status Cascades

The proposed rule set

2. Activity Status Cascades

Purpose

Forest Lifecycle (8 x key activities):

1. Harvesting
2. Earthworks
3. Mechanical Land Preparation
4. Afforestation
5. Pruning and Thinning
6. Quarrying
7. Replanting
8. River Crossing

2. Activity Status Cascades (cont'd)

Process and content:

1. Stocktake – what was already agreed
2. Review, gaps analysis and development, including:
 - Objective - what are the rules trying to achieve.
 - Scope - what activities do these rules apply to.
 - Risks - what are the primary risks that need to be managed.
 - Rationale - what risk(s) is the rule seeking to manage and how.
 - Jurisdiction
 - Compliance and implementation advice notes
3. Communication

2. Activity Status Cascades (cont'd)

Activity Status Cascade - Afforestation

Objective: To introduce a consistent set of afforestation conditions that manage the risk identified below in a manner that is in line with good forestry practice.

Scope: Afforestation is the act of planting non-indigenous forests on open land that is not currently in forestland that contains under plantation forestry cover within the last 10 years.

Note: Activities associated with afforestation are primarily:

- conversion of areas of plantation species into areas not suitable for plantation, including congenial habitats such as forest grassland and congenial properties (including commercial afforestation values, conservation and biodiversity values, wetland and future wetland and catchment functions);
- the substitution of forest at areas which are likely to have higher environmental value than plantation forestry activities such as pasture for beef farming.

Activity/Status	Risk Level	Control Measures
Establishment	High Risk Medium Risk Low Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of the environmental, cultural, historic and other values in combination with the potential for existing use for the site.
Planting	High Risk Medium Risk Low Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of the environmental, cultural, historic and other values in combination with the potential for existing use for the site. • Risk level where the planting is not suitable for the site. • Risk level where the planting is not suitable for the site.
Maintenance	High Risk Medium Risk Low Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of the environmental, cultural, historic and other values in combination with the potential for existing use for the site. • Risk level where the planting is not suitable for the site. • Risk level where the planting is not suitable for the site.
Harvesting	High Risk Medium Risk Low Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of the environmental, cultural, historic and other values in combination with the potential for existing use for the site. • Risk level where the planting is not suitable for the site. • Risk level where the planting is not suitable for the site.

Conditions/Standards

Area	Conditions	Notes/Remarks				
Establishment	Afforestation is permitted in forest, forest and range forest zones for the following activity for the following conditions: see table below.	Identify the controls for each of the proposed conditions. In addition, list the legal, policy, and other requirements that apply to the activity.				
Planting	1. Activity for the condition: Afforestation of native species in an area with a planting density of 1000 trees per hectare.	The condition applies to areas where the afforestation of native species is permitted. It is intended that the condition only applies to native species because the planting of native species is not a planting activity for the purposes of the Act. It is intended that the Department will not require the planting of native species.				
Planting	2. Control condition: Afforestation of native species within the following activity:	The condition applies to areas where the afforestation of native species is permitted. It is intended that the condition only applies to native species because the planting of native species is not a planting activity for the purposes of the Act. It is intended that the Department will not require the planting of native species.				
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Control Condition</td> <td>Minimum National Standards</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Planting native species</td> <td>1000 trees per hectare of the planting area, not less than 1000 trees per hectare.</td> </tr> </table>	Control Condition	Minimum National Standards	Planting native species	1000 trees per hectare of the planting area, not less than 1000 trees per hectare.	
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2. Activity Status Cascades (cont'd)

	Permitted	Controlled	Restricted Discretionary	Discretionary
Afforestation	Green	N/A	Red	Wilding score >16
	Yellow		Wilding score 12-16	
	Orange		Permitted conditions not met	Conditions not met
	Wilding Score <11			
Earthworks	Green	N/A	Orange <25°	N/A
	Yellow		Red	
	Orange <25°		Permitted conditions not met	
Harvesting	Green	Red - not 8e	Red - 8e	N/A
	Yellow			
	Orange	Permitted conditions not met		

2. Activity Status Cascades (cont'd)

	Permitted	Controlled	Restricted Disc.	Discretionary
Replanting	Green	Permitted conditions not met	N/A	N/A
	Yellow			
	Orange			
	Red			
Quarrying	Green	Red - earthflow	Permitted conditions not met	N/A
	Yellow			
	Orange	N/A		
	Red – no earthflow			
Mechanical Land Prep	Green	N/A	Orange/Red where subsoil disturbed	N/A
	Yellow		Permitted conditions not met	
	Orange			
	Red			
Prunning & Thinning	Green	Permitted conditions not met	N/A	N/A
	Yellow			
	Orange			
	Red			

An aerial photograph of a terraced hillside. The hillside is covered with rows of young pine trees planted in a grid pattern. The trees are arranged in long, parallel lines that follow the contours of the terraces. The ground between the trees is a mix of brown and green, suggesting some areas are still bare or have sparse vegetation. The overall scene is a large-scale reforestation or afforestation project.

3. Information Inputs

Informing the Application of Rules

3. Information inputs

1. Information inputs ensure rules are evidence based
2. Provide a mechanism to easily update rules and keep them relevant as new evidence becomes available
3. Inputs are being developed by subject matter experts

3. Information inputs (cont'd)

Wilding Calculator:

1. Overview: The Wilding calculator has been developed by the New Zealand Wilding Conifer Management Group to assess the risk of wilding spread based on species type, location, surrounding land uses and vegetation cover. Use of the calculator when establishing conifer plantations will mitigate the spread of wilding conifers.

2. Relevance to an NES: The Activity Status Cascade rules are more stringent when a greater wilding risk score occurs (1-11 Permitted, 12-16 Restricted Discretionary, 16+ Discretionary).

DSS1. CALCULATING WILDING SPREAD RISK FROM NEW PLANTINGS^{AB}
(Select score applicable for each of the five categories)
Version: 07/11; Issue date: June 2012

1. SPECIES – GROWTH (score for one species only)
Spreading vigor versus wild species

- ▶ *Banksia*, *Leptospermum*, *Podocarpus* and *Prumnopitys* (see risk – no seed in parent buffer) 0
- ▶ *Adiantum* (*P. robustum*) and *Podocarpus* (*P. grandis*) pine, *Larix laricina* (*L. laricina*) 1
- ▶ *Metrosideros* (*M. maritima*) and *Metrosideros* (*M. paniculata*) pine and *Larix* (*Larix* spp.) 2
- ▶ *Coronilla* (*C. agrippa*) and *Metrosideros* (*M. maritima*) (*P. strictum* wedge) pine 3
- ▶ *Douglas-fir* (*P. menziesii*), *Scots pine* (*P. sylvestris*) 4
- ▶ *Lodgepole*/*monartia* pine (*P. monartii*) 5

Enter score (0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5) here

2. SPECIES – PALATABILITY
Palatability versus wild species

- ▶ *Banksia*, *Metrosideros* and *Podocarpus* pine 1
- ▶ *Lodgepole* and *monartia* pine and *European* larch 2
- ▶ *Scots* and *monartia*/*Scots* *Metrosideros* pine and *Douglas-fir* 3
- ▶ *Coronilla* pine 4

Enter score (0, 1, 2, 3 or 4) here

3. SITING OF NEW PLANTING^{CA}
Trees are located on ...

- ▶ Sites well sheltered from prevalent and strong winds 0
- ▶ Flat sites (< 10°), partially exposed to strong prevalent winds 1
- ▶ Low slopes where strong ridge runs are likely 2
- ▶ Flat sites (> 10°), fully exposed to strong prevalent winds 3
- ▶ Either elevated, 'take-off' sites, ridge-tops, or base of exposed slopes (> 10°) or sloping land, fully exposed to strong prevalent winds 4

Enter score (0, 1, 2, 3 or 4) here

4. DOWNWIND LANDUSE – GRAZING
Wilding establishment influenced by grazing (particularly with sheep)

- ▶ Intensive grazing on developed pasture 0¹
- ▶ Regular muck stocking with sheep² 1²
- ▶ Semi-improved grazing (sheep/cattle) / occasional muck stocking with sheep 2²
- ▶ Intensive grazing only³ 3²
- ▶ No grazing 4²

Enter score (0, 1, 2, 3 or 4) here

5. DOWNWIND VEGETATION COVER (of *Douglas-fir* or *monartia* spp. in New Zealand)
Wilding establishment influenced by vegetation from existing vegetation

- ▶ Plantation forest, developed pasture (intensive grazing) 0²
- ▶ 'Native forest', shrubland/scrubland grazed with a continuous and dense vegetation cover 1²
- ▶ Forest/shrubland/scrubland grazed with few gaps 2²
- ▶ Open forest and/or scattered patches of dense shrubland/scrubland grazed with many gaps 3²
- ▶ Open sheepstocked and/or light, low-stem shrubland/scrubland grazed 4²

Enter score (0, 1, 2, 3 or 4) here

TOTAL SCORE
(See Assessment below for interpretation)

3. Information inputs (cont'd)

Erosion Susceptibility Classification:

- 1. Overview:** Developed using information published through the Land Use Capability (LUC) surveys. This severity rating is used to classify land into four categories of published risk of erosion potential: low, moderate, high and very high. Landcare Research are currently updating this tool to improve accuracy.
- 2. Relevance to an NES:** The level of control required under an NES for different activities is based on the erosion risk associated with the activity (Green, Orange, Yellow, Red).

A photograph of a forest with a semi-transparent text box overlaid. The forest consists of many tall, thin trees with light-colored bark, possibly birches, and a dense canopy of green leaves. The ground is covered with dry, brownish vegetation and fallen branches. The text box is a light gray rectangle with a thin black border, containing the text "4. Upcoming workshops" in a large, bold, black sans-serif font, and "Opportunities to provide input..." in a smaller, italicized, black sans-serif font below it.

4. Upcoming workshops


Opportunities to provide input...

4. Upcoming Workshops

1. MPI are seeking the views of smaller growers on the proposed Cascades and their workability in the context of woodlots and small plantations. Specifically, the workshops would fulfil four functions:
 - Update small forest growers on the proposed conditions and rules;
 - Provide these owners with an opportunity to provide feedback on the proposals and the application of the rules;
 - Identify situations where there are differences in application between small and large-scale growers; and
 - Enable MPI to gauge the need for further work on a range of issues, including the level of guidance that will be required.

4. Upcoming Workshops (cont'd)

1. MPI has planned four workshops for small growers:
 - Telford, Balclutha - Monday 24 November
 - Bulls Town Hall, Bulls - Wednesday 26 November
 - Hawkswood, North Canterbury - Thursday 27 November
 - Tangiteroria Hall, Northland – Saturday 29 November
2. Workshops will run from 10:30am- 2pm and will include lunch and a field visit to provide practical examples of how the proposed rules would be applied.
3. MPI welcomes any suggestions on issues you would like discussed at these workshops

A photograph of a forest with a semi-transparent text box overlaid. The forest consists of many tall, thin trees with light-colored bark, possibly birches, and a dense canopy of green leaves. The ground is covered with dry, brownish vegetation. The text box is a light gray rectangle with rounded corners, containing the text "5. Conclusions and Next Steps" in a large, bold, black font, and "What's next ..." in a smaller, italicized, black font below it.

5. Conclusions and Next Steps

What's next ...

5. Conclusions and Next Steps

Conclusions

1. MPI has been working closely and collaboratively with a good cross section of subject matter experts.
2. Significant progress has been made to develop a comprehensive rule set for each of the 8 key activities across the forest lifecycle.
3. Information input are being worked on to ensure the most up to date science based considerations can be incorporated.
4. Although a lot of work has been done to get to where we are, there is still a lot more work to do.

5. Conclusions and Next Steps (cont'd)

Next Steps:

1. Continue to engage with and gather feedback on the Activity Status Cascades from a broad cross section of impacted stakeholders.
2. Finalise the information inputs.
3. Report back to Cabinet outlining a proposed way forward.

Note: *Please send feedback or to ncpf@mpi.govt.nz*