



# PLANTATION FORESTRY RURAL FIRE CONTROL CHARTER

August 2017

Fire and Emergency New Zealand was established on 1 July 2017 with the principal objectives to reduce unwanted fires; and in relation to its main and additional functions to protect and preserve life, prevent or limit injury, and prevent or limit damage to property, land and the environment.

This is the first time New Zealand has a single, unified fire services organisation that combines urban and rural fire services, with expanded functions that reflect the range of services firefighters provide to communities. Fire and Emergency New Zealand is committed to working co-operatively and collaboratively with other organisations to achieve these objectives.

The plantation forestry sector (the sector) covers over 1.7 million hectares of land in New Zealand. The NZ Forest Owners Association (NZFOA) and the NZ Farm Forestry Association (NZFFA) are voluntary membership organisations that provide leadership, support and services to the sector.

It is acknowledged that there will be a long transition period before Fire and Emergency New Zealand functions as a fully unified, national organisation. This Charter provides clarity during this transition. The sector and Fire and Emergency New Zealand are committed to working together to maintain, and enhance the existing arrangements used to deliver effective rural fire control. The parties will review this Charter at least three yearly.

Both Fire and Emergency New Zealand and the sector, as represented by the signatories of this Charter, will work together to:

- develop and promote principles and actions with our members and personnel to improve fire management, and to support Fire and Emergency New Zealand over the coming years.
- communicate the contents of this Charter to our respective members and personnel.

NZFOA and NZFFA will also recommend to their members that they adopt those elements that can only be acted on by individual forest owners, rather than by the signatory Associations.

We will also be guided by the following statements: -

- Fire and Emergency New Zealand and the sector each have duties under health and safety legislation, and will co-operate with each other where they have a duty in relation to the same matter, to promote a safety-first culture within their organisations.
- The sector will make representations to, and seek support from, Fire and Emergency New Zealand at national, regional and local level.
- Fire and Emergency New Zealand and the sector acknowledge the role of fire as a land management tool.
- The sector is committed to investing at appropriate levels, in people, equipment and specialist knowledge, to support Fire and Emergency New Zealand in its objectives and fire control functions.
- Fire and Emergency New Zealand and the sector are committed to reducing the incidence and economic consequence of wildfires, through efficient and effective fire control measures and national, regional and local risk planning.
- Fire and Emergency New Zealand and the sector support the philosophy of managing wildfires by fire risk reduction, and early and controlled response.
- Fire and Emergency New Zealand and the sector support fire research including that of the SCION Fire Research Program and the utilisation or adoption of this research.
- Fire and Emergency New Zealand and the sector support the NZFOA Fire Management Guidelines which provide operational guidance and information to promote and ensure efficient and effective fire management, including protection, on plantation forests.
- The sector will be engaged and consulted on the development of national standards and forestry related fire management policies.
- Fire and Emergency New Zealand will engage with the sector on the development and publication of forestry fire related materials, distribution of fire control information, and the promotion of good fire management practices.

## SIGNATORIES

Rhys Jones, Chief Executive  
Fire and Emergency New Zealand

David Rhodes, Chief Executive  
New Zealand Forest Owners Association

Neil Cullen, President  
New Zealand Farm Forestry Association