

17 July 2025

File Ref: OIAPR-1274023063-40491

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Friends of Taupo Swamp & Catchment Inc (FOTSC)

By email: ██████████

Tēnā koe ██████████

### **Request for information 2025-221**

I refer to your request for information dated 12 July 2025, which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) on 14 July 2025. You have requested the following:

*“FOTSC requests a copy of the work schedule, and particularly details of the mitigation measures Farman Turkington Forestry has outlined to prevent silt runoff, slippage and any slash entering the local waterways, and the adjacent Taupo Swamp wetland system”*

### **Greater Wellington’s response follows:**

You have requested that your request be treated with urgency. Greater Wellington has assessed your request for urgency and has processed your request as soon as is reasonably practicable.

As explained in e-mail correspondence on 11 July 2025, the forestry operations are a permitted activity under the National Environmental Standard for Commercial Forestry (NES-CF). The landowner’s agent has submitted to GWRC a notification of this permitted activity. Whilst a work schedule was not submitted (which is not required under the NES-CF) an Earthworks & Harvest Management Plan was submitted which includes details on environmental mitigation measures. This is attached with this response along with a harvest map which was also submitted.

If you have any concerns with the decision(s) referred to in this letter, you have the right to request an investigation and review by the Ombudsman under section 27(3) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where appropriate. Our response to your request will be published shortly on Greater Wellington’s website with your personal information removed.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Lian Butcher

Kaiwhakahaere Matua Rōpū Taiao | Group Manager Environment

# Forestry Earthworks and Harvest Management Plan

## Cabrey Forest

Property Details	
Forest name	Cabrey
Road name and rural number of entry point (if available)	60 The Track, Plimmerton
Coordinates (NZTM)	1757200, 5451800
District	Porirua
Region	Greater Wellington

Person Details			
Land Owner	Name: Tod & Glen Cabrey Phone: Call FTF	Forest Owner <i>(if different)</i>	Name: Phone: Call FTF
Harvest Manager	Name: Farman Turkington Limited Phone: 06 377 4443	Earthworks Manager <i>(if different)</i>	Name: Farman Turkington Limited Phone: 06 377 4443
Contact for service	Address: 39 Waingawa Road Carterton Email: guy@ftf.co.nz Phone: 06 377 4443		

Plan Details	
Activities	Harvesting, Earthworks, River crossing
Plan date	7/05/2025
Version	1.0

Additional Comments

Water and On-site Areas					
<i>Yes: This site-specific risk is present on-site within the operational area, and management will involve the below methods</i>					
<i>No: This site-specific risk is not present within the operational area</i>					
Schedule 3(3)	Risk	Y/N	General Management		
On-site Risks	Significant natural areas:	N	No earthworks are to occur within 5m of any SNA on-site. Trees are to be directionally felled away, unless unsafe to do so.		
Water on-site	Wetlands (larger than 0.25 ha):	N	No earthworks are to occur within 10m of any wetland >0.25 ha on-site (NES-CF Reg 29(1)(b)), except for exemptions listed under Reg 29(3). Harvest machinery will not operate within 5m of any wetland >0.25ha, except for exemptions listed under Reg 68(5). Trees are to be directionally felled away, unless unsafe to do so (NES-CF Reg 68(1)).		
	Lakes (larger than 0.25 ha):	N	No earthworks are to occur within 10m of any lake >0.25ha on-site (NES-CF Reg 29(1)(c)), except for exemptions listed under Reg 29(3). Harvest machinery will not operate within 10m of any lake >0.25ha, except for exemptions listed under NES-CF Reg 68(5). Trees are to be directionally felled away, unless unsafe to do so (NES-CF Reg 68(1)).		
	Perennial rivers:	Y	No earthworks within 10m of a perennial river under NES-CF Reg 29, except if: (a) the earthworks are for the construction and maintenance of a river crossing, a sediment or water control measure, or a slash trap or debris retention structure; or (b) the earthworks within the setback will result in less than 100 m <sup>2</sup> of soil disturbance in any 3-month period, and are not within 5 m of the water body; or (c) during the maintenance and upgrade of existing earthworks. Harvest machinery will not operate within 5m of a perennial river with a bankfull channel width less than 3m under Reg 68, except if; (a) any disturbance to the water body from the machinery is minimised; and (b) the harvest machinery is being operated at water body crossing points, where slash removal is necessary, or where essential for directional felling in a chosen direction or extraction of trees from within the setbacks in subclause (4).		
	Outstanding freshwater body:	N	No earthworks are to occur within 10m of any outstanding freshwater body on-site (NES-CF Reg 29(1)(d)), except for exemptions listed under Reg 29(3). Harvest machinery will not operate within 10m of any outstanding freshwater body, except for exemptions listed under NES-CF Reg 68(5).		
	Water conservation order:	N	No earthworks are to occur within 10m of any water body subject to a water conservation order on-site (NES-CF Reg 29(1)(e)), except for exemptions listed under Reg 29(3). Harvest machinery will not operate within 10m of any water body subject to a water conservation order, except for exemptions listed under NES-CF Reg 68(5).		
	Coastal marine area:	N	No earthworks are to occur within 30m of the coastal marine area (NES-CF Reg 29(2)). Harvest machinery will not operate within 30m of the coastal marine area.		
Fish Species	Fish Spawning Indicator mapped	Y	Species and mapped area proximity	None present onsite	Spawning Period(s):
	Measures to avoid disturbance	Felling away from the mapped spawning reaches, where safe to do so. Complying with relevant setbacks unless one of the exemptions apply. Minimising crossing use during spawning periods wherever possible.			
Down stream risks	For sites with a waterbody, identify the following potential risks should material (woody debris, slash, or sediment) be mobilized to the following if they are located downstream of the forestry activity:				
	1) Yes/No/NA on presence 2) Low/Medium/High risk rating 3) Description of any potential risks				
	Potential risks to public roads and other infrastructure e.g. culvert, bridge	1)	2)	3)	
	Potential risks to downstream properties or dwellings: e.g. low-lying dwellings	Y	L	Train Track, downstream public bridge approximately 1km from Harvest area	
	Potential risks to downstream river, lake, estuary or sea: e.g. SOS-A, Fish Spawning, Outstanding Freshwater Body	Y	L	Taupo swamp	
Downstream drinking water supplies:	Y/N				
River crossing	Temporary crossings:	Y	Temporary crossing installation, use, maintenance, and removal will adhere to NES-CF Reg 46(6), and will not remain in place for longer than 2 months.		
	Ford crossings:	N	The use of fords will avoid fishing spawning periods and sediment controls will manage runoff away from the crossing point, to minimise sediment delivery to water bodies, and adhere to NES-CF Reg 46(4).		
	Existing crossings:	N	Upgrade of an existing crossing will comply with NES-CF Regs 39 to 42 (NES-CF Reg 37(3)).		

## Forestry Earthworks

Earthworks and Erosion and sediment controls will occur in general accordance with the **Forest Practice Guides** as required to avoid the effects listed in NES-CF Regulation 26 and 31.

<b>Forestry Earthworks Management Plan</b>			
<b>Description of works:</b> Identify the area of earthworks		Shown on the management plan map.	
Scope of works (including estimated cut and fill volumes by ESC zone): and where it is maintenance, upgrade, road widening, realignment, or new works		Upgrade and Install access road, Skid sites, Haul tracks  *Culverts will be installed following Forest best practice guides and NES CF regulations indicatively at every 50-100m *Indicative vol 1000 cube per 1km of roading *Install of Skid sites *Indicative Haul Tracks	
When the activity will begin and end, including construction time for earthworks and stabilisation		5 <sup>th</sup> June 2025 – 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2026 Stabilisation measures are planned to be applied before the end of Spring or Autumn, whichever is the sooner, after earthworks have finished in green and yellow ESC zones. Orange or red ESC zone earthworks will have stabilisation measures applied within 20 working days of their completion if not required for harvesting within 12 months.	
Design rainfall event size and duration used to design the sediment control measures and the heavy rainfall contingency and response measures		The design rainfall event size used for designing capacity of sediment control measures is: <b>20mm/1hour or 50mm/24hours</b> (average NIWA estimated 5 year ARI for FTF operational area)	
<b>Risk management practices to avoid, remedy, or mitigate risks (identified on the map)</b>			
<i>Yes: This specific method is likely to be utilised to manage water and sediment within the operational area, as required to meet NES-CF regulations and generally in accordance with the Forest Practice Guide Section indicated.</i>			
<i>No: This specific method is considered unnecessary for the proposed works, due to the level of risk, size, or scale</i>			
Schedule 3(4)	<b>Methods</b>	<b>Y/N</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Erosion and sediment control measures</b>	Sediment traps:	Y	(FPG 2.6) Install on forestry roads, tracks, skids/landings, as required, to capture and treat stormwater runoff and minimise sediment deliver to waterbodies.
	Soak holes	Y	(FPG 2.6) Install on landing and skid sites, as required, to minimise sediment delivery to waterbodies in lieu of sediment traps where soil conditions provide adequate infiltration.
	Silt fences	N	(FPG 2.7) Install as required, usually within 5m of perennial rivers where earthworks occur close to the 10m setback, to ensure that soil and sediment do not migrate directly into the waterbody. The silt fence will direct surface water flows further away from the waterbody allowing it to be treated by sediment traps/soak holes before discharge.
	Decanting Earth Bunds	N	(FPG 2.8) This method is not generally considered necessary or appropriate for most forestry earthworks due to limitations on size and space for such structures. If required, these will adhere to the Forest Practice Guide.
	Slash bunds	Y	(FPG 5.4) Install around earthworks to filter run-off, particularly near perennial rivers as required and where appropriate, to minimise sediment migration.
	Slash and vegetation filters	Y	(FPG 5.4) Direct run-off through slash and vegetation, as required to help filter stormwater and minimise sediment migration to water bodies.
<b>Water run-off control measures</b>	Water tables	Y	(FPG 2.1) Install on forestry roads, as required, to direct majority of stormwater run-off into associated sediment controls and minimise erosion and sediment delivery to waterbodies.
	Cut outs	Y	(FPG 2.2) Install on forestry tracks, as required, but particularly to decommission tracks and before forecasted rain events, to direct runoff off tracks at regular intervals to minimise erosion and sediment delivery to waterbodies.

	Stormwater culverts	Y	(FPG 2.4) Install on forestry roads, as required, to direct water under the road at regular intervals to minimise erosion and sediment delivery to waterbodies.
	Flumes	Y	(FPG 2.5) Flume stormwater, where necessary, to divert water run-off and disperse water flows to stable ground and away from constructed fill.
	Berms	Y	(FPG 2.3) Install on forestry roads, as required, to channel stormwater to culverts or outlets and minimise erosion to the outside edge of the road.
<b>Methods to manage excess fill for large-scale cut and fill operations</b>	Planning and design:	Y	(FPG 1.1) Earthworks design will follow Forest Practice Guide principles, where necessary to minimise erosion, destabilisation, and sediment delivery to waterbodies.
	Clearing and stripping:	Y	(FPG 1.2) Clearing and stripping of topsoil will be undertaken in general accordance with the Forest Practice Guides.
	Bulk earthworks:	Y	(FPG 1.3) Bulk earthworks will be carried out in general accordance with the Forest Practice Guides to minimise sediment generation and erosion risk, including meeting NES-CF regulations such as benching roads on > 25 degree slopes where road widening or realignment is needed and limiting side cutting heights in orange zone on >25 degree slopes.
	Fill placement and compaction:	Y	(FPG 1.4) Compact fill where there is a risk of migration to water. Place spoil where it avoids the effects listed in NES-CF Reg 30(2); (a) where it may cause failure of the deposited material or the underlying land; or (b) over slash or woody vegetation; or (c) into a water body, coastal water, or a significant natural area; or (d) onto land in circumstances that may result in the spoil or sediment entering water.
	End-haul (shown on map)	N	(FPG 1.3) Excess fill will generally be used to construct berms or other infrastructure as needed, to minimise risk of erosion and sediment migration to water. However, particularly on slopes of more than 35 degrees or where it cannot be benched in a manner that retains stability, excess material will be placed in a stable location where it cannot be used, and avoid slope zones, visible earthflows, and areas above sensitive receiving environments.
<b>Methods to stabilise batters, side cast, and cut and fill</b>	Grassing:	Y	(FPG 5.1) Exposed soils will be stabilised upon completion using grass seed, including but not limited to; batters, side cast, fill, and spoil, as required.
	Hydro-seeding:	N	(FPG 5.2) Where there is a higher risk of sediment migration to water or erosion, or where grass strike has not been successful, hydroseeding can be used to rapidly stabilise exposed soils. This method is not generally necessary.
	Mulch/Hay:	Y	(FPG 5.3) Apply to stabilise erosion or minimise areas with a higher risk of sediment migration, particularly where close to waterbodies, as necessary.
	Slash:	Y	(FPG 5.4) Spread evenly over exposed soils to intercept rain and stabilise, particularly near waterbodies or where there is a higher risk of sediment migration to water.
	Track rehabilitation:	Y	(FPG 4.2) Decommissioning practices will be used, as appropriate, including the use of slash on tracks and installation of water and sediment controls such as cut outs.
<b>Post-harvest remedial work timing and methods</b>	Over-sowing:	N	Aerial over sowing of grass seed will be used on high-risk sites where standard stabilisation methods have not fully succeeded, or where appropriate to manage compliance with the NES-CF effects-based regulations.
	Replanting:	Y	Intended for the following winter. Replanting can help with stabilisation and long-term erosion control.
	Retirement/reversion:	N	



## Forestry Harvesting

Erosion and sediment controls will occur in general accordance with the *Forest Practice Guides* as needed to avoid the effects listed in NES-CF Regulation 65, 68, and 69.

Harvest Management Plan			
Harvesting method: ground-based or hauler, and the hauler system type		Ground-Based	
When the activity will begin and end		5 <sup>th</sup> June 2025 – 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	
How the activity is to be undertaken		The forest will be harvested by Ground-Based methods. This involves felling the trees either by machine or chainsaw.	
<p><b>Yes:</b> This site-specific risk is present on-site within the operational area, and management will involve the below methods, as required to meet NES-CF regulations and generally in accordance with the Forest Practice Guide Section indicated.</p> <p><b>No:</b> This site-specific risk is not present within the operational area, or this specific measure is not needed at this site.</p>			
Schedule 5(c)	Risk	Y/N	Harvest Management
Any features that are to be protected during the operation (identified on the map)	Significant natural areas:	Y	<p>Wherever possible, directional fell plantation forestry trees away from, and not into, the SNA, unless required for health and safety requirements.</p> <p>Harvest machinery may operate within 5m of the SNA to achieve direction felling of plantation forestry trees.</p> <p>Plantation forestry trees that inadvertently enter the SNA may be removed using full-stem extraction methods.</p> <p>Cable harvesting over SNA must achieve full suspension.</p> <p>New tracking must not occur within 5m of the SNA.</p> <p>Harvest tracking should minimise disturbance to tree roots growing from the SNA, wherever possible.</p> <p>NES-CF Reg 93(5)(c) Incidental damage in an SNA means damage that –            (i) does not significantly affect the values of that significant natural area; and            (ii) allows the ecosystem to recover to a state where, within 36 months of the damage occurring, it will be predominantly of the composition previously found at that location.</p>
<b>Erosion and Sediment management and procedures to avoid, remedy, or mitigate erosion and sedimentation risks -</b>			
As above in the Earthworks Management Plan section.			
<b>Slash management and procedures for -</b>			
Avoiding instability of slash at landing sites	Slash placement areas:	Y	(FPG 6.1) Place slash on stable ground, prioritizing natural storage options in the landscape where there is a low risk of slash migration or slope failure.
	Slash benches:	Y	(FPG 6.1) Install slash benches where necessary to catch slash, particularly on sites within limited natural storage options, or where slash migration could result in slash entering a water body.
	Keeping slash free of soil:	Y	(FPG 6.1) Keep slash free of soil and organic matter, to meet NES-CF Reg 30.
	Stormwater around slash piles:	Y	(FPG 6.1) Manage stormwater away from slash piles to prevent erosion destabilizing slash piles and birds' nest.
	Bin wood management:	Y	Where possible, make use of bin wood services to reduce the amount of slash present on landing sites.
	Slash on landing edges:	Y	(FPG 6.1) Pull back slash from landing edges where it may become unstable. High piles of slash should be distributed to reduce the weight on landing edges.
Keeping slash away from high-risk areas (no-slash zones)	Cut-over slash on high-risk slopes:	Y	(FPG 6.2) Minimise the amount of slash left on high-risk slopes, where the slope is steep, it may be susceptible to failure, and if located near a sensitivity area such as a high-value water body or downstream infrastructure. This may involve limiting processing on the slope or higher cut stumps to help retain slash or burning slash post-harvest.
Slash management in the vicinity of	Directional felling:	Y	(FPG 6.3) Directionally fell trees away from waterbodies, unless unsafe to do so, which then requires felling trees directly across waterbodies for full extraction (NES-CF Reg 68(1-2)).

waterways, including identifying any areas where it would be unsafe or impractical to retrieve slash from water bodies	Stem extraction over waterbodies:	Y	Maintain butt suspension wherever practicable (NES-CF Reg 67(1), and full suspension must be achieved across rivers of 3m or more in width (NES-CF Reg 68(3)).
	Slash non-removal zones (unsafe/impractical):	Y	In general, all slash confined within a waterbody is considered unsafe to retrieve manually by FTF, so methods to reduce slash within waterbodies should be used instead of relying on machine slash removal post-harvest.
Measures to ensure that slash is not mobilised in heavy rain events (5% AEP or greater) and contingency measures for such movement, including requirements for slash removal from streams and use of slash traps	Slash removal zones (shown on map):	N	(FPG 6.3) Slash must be removed within the slash removal zones identified in the harvest plan map, to avoid blocking or damming a waterbody, eroding river banks, significant adverse effects on aquatic life, or damage to downstream infrastructure, property, or receiving environments including the coastal environment, unless unsafe to do so (NES-CF Reg 69(4)).  Removal will be by machine only, and will minimise disturbance to waterway banks and bed, limiting machine entry and exit points. Slash will be deposited outside of the 5% AEP zone, onto stable ground.
	High-cut stumps near waterbodies:	Y	(FPG 6.3) Utilise high-cut stumps to trap slash and reduce slash migration to waterways, particularly where there is high slash loads or steeper slopes with a risk of slash migration that has a high connectivity with the waterway (no breaks in slope).
	Retain some trees as slash buffer:	Y	Where an area of trees would be difficult to extract and would add non-retrievable slash to a waterway, these trees may be left standing. This can provide a buffer to capture slash (FPG 6.3).
	Slash traps:	N	(FPG 6.4) Install slash traps in high-risk harvest and post-harvest river and stream catchments, where slash could be mobilised in flood events. While not often necessary or possible, due to confined or incised channels and limited access with machinery, slash traps can be effective in catchments of several hundred hectares.
	Replanting/revegetation/retirement:	Y	Replanting can help to control erosion and provide long-term stabilisation to slash. If the landowner does not wish to replant, revegetation or retirement/reversion would help to stabilise the slash.
	Maintenance of infrastructure:	Y	Infrastructure will be maintained to avoid collapse or erosion, particularly close to waterbodies. Managing stormwater, combined with stabilisation with grass or other vegetation will generally be sufficient. Long-term, maintenance will be the landowner's responsibility.
<b>Operational restrictions to -</b>			
Minimise damage to indigenous vegetation	Location of harvest machinery:	Y	Minimise disturbance to avoid clearance of more than 1 ha within or adjacent to the plantation forest, by limiting tracking close to indigenous vegetation and using directional felling techniques where practicable.
Avoid Indigenous Fauna	Identify and mitigate adverse:	Y	Identify any threatened or at-risk species of indigenous fauna present within the harvest area, using the indigenous bird nesting protocol for assistance with identification and other relevant FOA species guidance. Follow available industry best practice guidelines for the relevant species where practicable and applicable, including mitigating effects during any specified breeding season.
Avoid Indigenous Bird Nesting Areas	Indigenous bird nesting:	Y	Identify and then mitigate effects on indigenous birds if they are nesting, in accordance with NES-CF Reg 102. Refer to FTF Indigenous Bird Nesting Protocol document for specific mitigations and identification.
Avoid damage to downstream and adjacent infrastructure and properties	Slash management:	Y	(FPG 6.1-6.4) Use the methods listed above to retain slash on-site and out of waterways, including management stormwater, particularly in areas with a high-risk of slope failure and/or slash migration.
	Directional felling:	Y	Fell trees away from neighbouring properties and waterbodies.

## Maintenance and Monitoring

### Principles of Maintenance and Monitoring

Maintenance and monitoring to:

- be conducted regularly by contractor and operations supervisor
- rectify and report maintenance issues immediately
- record major corrective actions

### Management Practices for Maintenance

<b>Proposed routine maintenance and monitoring processes</b>	<p>Monitoring will occur during construction to ensure that all management plan requirements are being met.</p> <p>Routine monitoring will occur at regular intervals to assess maintenance requirements, determined by the site risk assessment, and may range from weekly to monthly.</p> <p>Post-harvest monitoring will occur following completion and may continue depending on the site risk assessment.</p>
<b>Proposed heavy rainfall contingency and response measures, including—</b>	
<b>Specific triggers or thresholds for action</b>	<p>Where heavy rainfall of more than 20mm/1hour or 50mm/24hours is forecast during earthworks construction, additional contingency measures will be implemented as needed, including installing temporary sediment and water controls, cut-outs and diversion drains.</p>
<b>Post-event monitoring and remedial works</b>	<p>The site will be visited as soon as possible following heavy rainfall events during active operations, to ensure that all stormwater and sediment control structures are operational. Any repairs and maintenance will be conducted immediately following identification of the issue.</p>
<b>Post-harvest monitoring of residual risks, and the corrective action processes</b>	<p>Infrastructure will be monitored after completion of harvesting to ensure that water and sediment controls remain effective on the site following significant rainfall events of more than 30mm/1hour or 100mm/24hours (<i>average NIWA estimated 30 year ARI for FTF operational area</i>).</p>



