

ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

Land Use Consent Application
Earthworks

Morrison Forest



Taumata Plantations Ltd
May 2022

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1. Introduction and Background

Morrison Forest is located on the southern margin of Aotea harbour; approximately 46km west of Te Kuiti. The forest is currently accessed by way of Kawhia Road, Aotea Road and Morrison Road (See Figure 1).



FIGURE 1. MORRISON FOREST LOCATION MAP (FOREST SHOWN IN PURPLE)

Morrison Forest is a first rotation plantation forest. The total area of the property is 307 ha of which 250ha is productive, planted in Pinus Radiata.

Taumata Plantations Limited (TPL) holds a one rotation forestry right for the forest, which was purchased from Carter Holt Harvey in 2006. The landowners are David Morrison, Megan Bolton, and SR Waikato Trustee. The block is managed for Taumata Plantations by Manulife Forest Management New Zealand Ltd (MFM NZ) Formerly known as Hancock Forest Management New Zealand Ltd. When harvesting is completed, TPL and MFM (NZ)'s involvement with the forest ceases. Future land use decisions sit with the Morrison Family as owners.

Taumata Plantations Ltd is seeking resource consent for activities associated with the harvesting of Morrison Forest at Aotea. Consent is sought to generate traffic and undertake earthworks in Morrison Forest.

Work is planned to begin in 2022, starting with road line salvage and engineering. Harvesting is planned to start in the second half of 2022 and to continue for 3 years. The following Assessment of Environmental Effects is to support a consent application for these activities.

2. Activity Status

The National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry (NES PF) apply to forestry activities in Morrison Forest and override the District Plan rules. Under the NES PF the proposed harvesting, earthworks and river crossings are permitted activities.

However, parts of Morrison Forest are within the Otorohanga District Council (ODC) Coastal Policy Area and Landscape of High Amenity Value (LHAV) – Coastal Area (see Figure 2). Regulation 6(1)(b) of the NES PF provides for plan rules to be more stringent if they give effect to any of policies 11, 13, 15, and 22 of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010. ODC’s Coastal Policy Area Standards are more stringent than the NES PF for earthworks in this zone and will apply.

Regulation 6(2)(a) of the NES PF provides for plan rules to be more stringent if they recognise and provide for the protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate use and development. There are no outstanding natural features or landscapes within Morrison Forest.

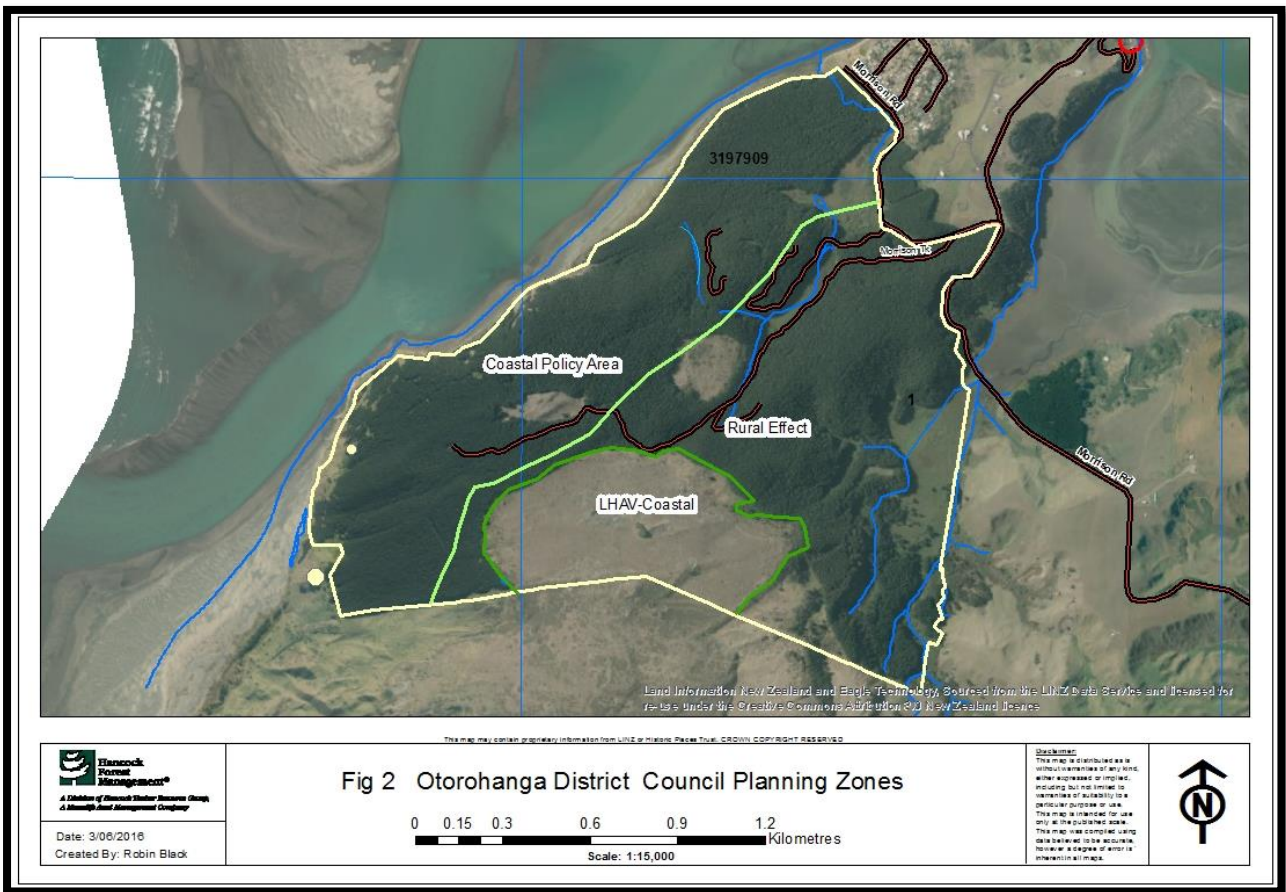


FIGURE 2: FOREST MAP SHOWING OTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL ZONING

There are also multiple known historic sites within Morrison Forest. There is no provision in section 6 of the NES PF for plan rules to be more stringent on the management of historic sites. However, guidance information from MPI notes that effects on cultural and historic heritage and effects from logging truck movements are excluded from the regulations, which allows plan rules to continue to manage effects on them. The District Plan rules relating to these effects will therefore apply.

An assessment of the relevant NES PF and District Plan rules is provided below.

National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry

TABLE 1. APPLICABLE NES PF REGULATIONS RELATED TO DISTRICT COUNCIL CONTROL

NES PF Regulation	Assessment	Permitted
23. Earthworks	For territorial authorities, earthworks are a permitted activity under the NES PF. However, ODC's Coastal Policy Area Standards apply and are more stringent than the NES PF for earthworks in this zone.	ODC Consent Required.
63 & 64. Harvesting	For territorial authorities, harvesting is a permitted activity if notice is given, subject to the council being notified of commencement (regulation 64).	Permitted.
93. Indigenous Vegetation Clearance	Criteria 1-5 can be met. No SNA are designated within the forest. Harvest plans outline protection measures for the areas of indigenous vegetation that is present.	Permitted.
98. Noise and Vibration	We anticipate that the proposed activities will be compliant with the standards outlined in this regulation. A number of measures are in place to ensure that disturbance from noise is minimised. These are outlined in Section 5. Disturbance from vibration should be minimal.	Permitted.
100. Dust	Dust will be managed to comply with this regulation.	Permitted.

TABLE 2. APPLICABLE NES PF REGULATIONS RELATED TO REGIONAL COUNCIL CONTROL

NES PF Regulation	Assessment	Permitted
24. Earthworks	Regulations 25 to 33 can be complied with. The forest is located within an area of green and yellow zone ESC mapping, and therefore earthworks is permitted under subclause (2)(a).	Permitted.
25. Notice	Notice will be provided to Regional Council	Permitted.
26. Sediment	Earthworks will be managed to minimise sediment entering water and all works will comply with a-c.	Permitted.
27. Forestry Earthworks Management Plan	A forestry earthworks management plan has been completed and is included as part of the harvest plans (provided).	Permitted.
28. Operation	Planned operations will comply with 1-3.	Permitted.
29. Setbacks	Planned operations will comply with setback rules 1-3. No earthworks are planned within 30m of the Coastal Marine Area.	Permitted.

30. Fill and Spoil	Fill and spoil will be managed to best practice standards and will comply with 1-2.	Permitted.
31. Sediment and Stormwater Control Measures	Sediment and stormwater control measures will be designed to comply with 1-4.	Permitted.
32. Stabilisation	Stabilisation will be completed as soon as possible after construction and will comply with 1-2.	Permitted.
33. Roads, Tracks and Landings	Planned operations will comply with 1-2.	Permitted.
Subpart 4 River Crossings 37-49.	River crossings have been minimised in the operational plans. Three crossings are planned (a culvert and two temporary crossings). These will be installed subject to the standards set out in subpart 4.	Permitted.
63. Harvesting	Regulations 64-49 can be complied with. As noted, the forest is located in green and yellow zone and therefore harvesting is permitted under subclause (2)(a).	Permitted.
64. Notice	Notice will be provided to Regional Council.	Permitted
65. Sediment	Harvesting will be managed to minimise sediment entering water and all works will be compliant with a-c.	Permitted.
66. Harvest Plan	Harvest Plans are completed and attached to this application. They will be provided to Regional Council.	Permitted.
67. Ground Disturbance	Operations are planned to minimise ground disturbance.	Permitted.
68. Disturbance of Margins of Water Bodies and Coastal Marine Area	Operations are planned to comply with 1-6. Harvest plans outline these measures.	Permitted.
69. Slash and Debris Management	Best practice standards will be adhered to and conditions 1-4 will be met.	Permitted.
97. Discharges, Disturbance and Diversions.	Discharges, disturbances and diversions will be avoided or minimised. Harvest plans outline these measures. If discharges, disturbances or diversions do occur they will be in accordance with 1-5 and managed with the Regional Council. There are two streams within the block. Both have been identified as having a possibility of the presence of redfin bully. Three crossings are planned on one of these creeks (Kowiwi creek) and therefore the related NES PF timing restrictions apply. MFM (NZ) will use eDNA to confirm if red fin are in fact present, and this will be managed by the Regional Council.	Permitted.
100. Dust	Dust will be managed to comply with this regulation.	Permitted.
104. Fuel Storage and Refuelling	Fuel storage and refuelling will be managed in accordance with best practice, outlined in the EMS and will comply with this regulation.	Permitted.

Relevant standards of the Otorohanga District Plan are assessed in Table 3.

TABLE 3. DISTRICT PLAN ASSESSMENT

Otorohanga District Plan Land Use Chapter Standard	Assessment of compliance
<p>3A The proposed earthworks will not cause or have the potential to cause impediment, disturbance or modification to; or the destruction of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the Coastal Marine Area; (ii) indigenous coastal vegetation (iii) habitats of indigenous coastal species, including migratory birds; (iv) indigenous biodiversity; (v) feeding, breeding, or roosting grounds of coastal birds or fauna (including areas which provide animals with access to these grounds); (vi) features in the coastal environment, including: estuaries; coastal wetlands, mangrove swamps, salt or reed marshes, beaches, sea cliffs, or sand dunes; (vii) coastal landforms recognised as being of geological interest, significance or importance; (viii) natural coastal processes; (ix) water quality in the Coastal Marine Area; and (x) recognised customary activity 	<p>No habitats of coastal species have been identified within the forest. The proposed earthworks will be largely restricted to areas of the forest planted with radiata pine. Based on assessments carried out to date there is no evidence of the forest being used as habitat for indigenous coastal species including migratory birds. It is possible that mobile species such as flying birds occasionally use the forest.</p> <p>The forest itself is located on sand dune in places and therefore inevitably disturbance to a sand dune will occur. Therefore rule 3.5 applies so this becomes a discretionary activity.</p> <p>Our proposed operation should have no impact on, i, ii, v, vii, viii, ix or x.</p>
<p>12B The proposal will not result in the total number of vehicles using any entranceway exceeding Rural Effects Area Road Order 2 and 3 criteria.</p>	<p>The Rural Effects Area road order criteria limit permitted vehicle movements to an average of 50 per day, a maximum of 100 per day and a maximum of 350 per week.</p> <p>In the ODP the movement of vehicles to and from a site is assessed as: (a) 1 light vehicle to and from site = 2 vehicle movements. (b) 1 heavy vehicle to and from site = 6 vehicle movements.</p> <p>The proposed operation will require more than an average of 8 trucks per day. Therefore, the activity does not meet standard 12B and is a discretionary activity under rule 12.2.</p>
<p>21A The proposed building and/or earthworks is not to be carried out: (i) Within 100 metres of a</p>	<p>The proposed earthworks will take place within 100m of Category A and B historic sites in several locations. The activity therefore does not meet standard 21A</p>

<p>recorded Category A archaeological site identified on the Planning Maps and/or in Appendix 7; or (ii) Within 100 metres of a recorded Category B archaeological site identified on the Planning Maps and/or in Appendix 8; or (iii) Within an area shown on the Planning Maps and in Appendix 8A as being a site of significance.</p>	<p>and is a restricted discretionary activity under rule 21.3.</p>
<p>21B The proposed land use involves only minor works and does not involve or contribute to the modification, or alteration of a registered historic site, building, place, or area identified on the Planning Maps and/or in Appendix 9.</p>	<p>The proposed harvesting and earthworks involve more than minor works. All care will be taken to minimise impacts on historic sites however in some instances trees are planted directly on the sites. Felling and removal of these trees could cause minor modification to site features. The activity therefore does not meet standard 21A and is a restricted discretionary activity under rule 21.3.</p>

Resource Consent Sought

Land use consent is sought for the following activities:

- Earthworks in the Coastal Policy Area under section 3 of the Otorohanga District Plan.
- Earthworks within 100m of a recorded archaeological site under section 21 of the Otorohanga District Plan.
- Vehicle access and traffic generation under section 12 of the Otorohanga District Plan.

The property titles where the activity is to take place is:

- PT LOT 1 DPS 75439 CT SA57B/14, 303ha
- PT AOTEA STH 3A BLKS I, II, V, and VI, Kawhia North SD CT SA 249/48; 3.93 ha

The valuation number for the property is 05620-001-00.

Other consents necessary under the Resource Management Act 1991 (Waikato Regional Council)

No additional consents are required for the proposed activity.

3. Description of the Proposed Activity

Timing of Operations

Consents are sought for activities associated with the harvesting of Morrison Forest. Road line salvage (clearing of trees along road lines) and earthworks operations are proposed to commence in 2022, with clear fall harvesting to follow. Harvesting operations in the block are scheduled to take place with a single logging crew through until approximately 2026. Earthworks will progressively be undertaken as harvesting opens the forest. A 5-year consent window is sought to allow for any unforeseen delays and changes to the harvesting schedule.

Earthworks

MFM (NZ) proposes to undertake earthworks to upgrade the original roads and stub roads constructed at the time of forest establishment. Construction of additional stub roads and skids will also be required. See Appendix I for planned road and skid layout. Generally, the easy contour and sand substrate will necessitate only minimal earth moving for construction. Due to the concentration of historic heritage in the area, the harvesting methodology and road layout has been specifically designed to minimise the potential for damage to known sites and minimise excavation as far as possible.

Construction work will be carried out predominantly using tracked excavators with bulldozers used only where required. During construction, the road line will be compacted and appropriate hard rock deposits to be used for road surfacing metal will be brought into the forest from external sources. This metal will be sourced from Ryken Farms Quarry.

All earthworks will be carried out by experienced and qualified operators, contracted to Taumata Plantations Ltd and managed by MFM (NZ) staff.

Draft operational plans have all been prepared specifically for this forest and provide in-depth information for how the proposed operations will be undertaken and how historic sites and environmental risks will be managed (See Appendix I and II).

Traffic Generation

We will schedule operations so that there is only one harvesting crew working at a time. However, for short periods of time some overlap between harvesting and engineering will be required.

The amount of traffic generated will depend on the stage of operations.

During road line salvage operations, the crew will require approximately 10 log trucks per day to transport logs from the site. In addition, there will be approximately 5 crew vehicles plus weekly visits from supervisors and regular visits from service vehicles.

For engineering operations, approximately 4 operators will work on construction at a time. Metal carting will take place over short periods and when this happens there could be up to 10 metal trucks per day from the quarry to the forest.

For harvesting operations, the predicted crew output will require on average 12 log trucks per day. In addition, there will be approximately 5 crew vehicles plus weekly visits from supervisors and regular visits from service vehicles.

Trucks will arrive at staggered times with the first trucks arriving from 4am and will finish by 5pm.

We estimate our peak traffic generation will not exceed 20 heavy vehicles and 10 light vehicles per day. Generally, we expect about 12 heavy vehicles per day and an approximately 8 light vehicles. Using the ODP definition of vehicle movements, Table 2 shows the proposed traffic generation:

TABLE 4. PROPOSED TRAFFIC GENERATION

Average vehicle movements per day.	Maximum total vehicle movements per day.	Maximum total vehicle movements per week.
120	150	700

NB: One heavy vehicle to and from the site = 6 vehicle movements.

4. Description of the Environment

Topography/soils

The forest is located on the sequence of Holocene-Recent sand dunes bordering Aotea Harbour. The topography within the forest is predominantly flat to rolling with slopes between 5 and 20 degrees and localised steeper areas. The mapped soils are Patea hill soil and Horea sandy clay loam hill soil.

Land use Capability and Erosion Risk Classification

Morrison Forest was originally mapped in the 1970's as part of the NZ Land Resource Inventory process, primarily into five land use capability Units:

- 4e1 (18ha); these are small areas of the oldest stabilised dunes, underlying part of the forest and the Aotea settlement.
- 6e15 (27ha); the scarp slope above the alluvial and coastal margin.
- 6w1 (22ha); wet valley floor deposit with varying degrees of native and exotic wetland vegetation.
- 7e7 (191 ha); the upper wind exposed terraces for the more recent erosion surface.

The NES PF Erosion Susceptibility Classification shows the plantation area to be low and moderate erosion risk (green and yellow zones).

Vegetation

Morrison Forest was originally coastal farmland which was planted in production forest over the period 1990 to 1994. The Morrison Forest forestry right includes 81 ha of unplanted reserves - wetland, unstocked sand dune and kanuka forest. There is also a small area of Acacia Melanoxylon adjacent to Te Kowiwi Stream that is deemed non-productive. Many of these reserve areas have regenerated with scattered shrub hardwoods (tauhinu, pohuehue and manuka) or weed species during the growing phase of the production forest.

On the Pukeatua sand field (LHAV – Coastal Zone), remnant pohutukawa trees exist together with planted and self-sown seedlings. The bulk of the site however is dominated by marram, lupin, gorse, and tauhinu.

Te Kowiwi Creek wetland contains raupo, harakeke, sedge, and taro. Te Puna o Korotangi wetland contains raupo and harakeke as well as abundant grey willow and gorse. Both wetland areas are of high cultural significance.

Understorey vegetation in the production forest is minimal as the forest has been heavily browsed by wandering mobs of cattle and horses from neighbouring properties.

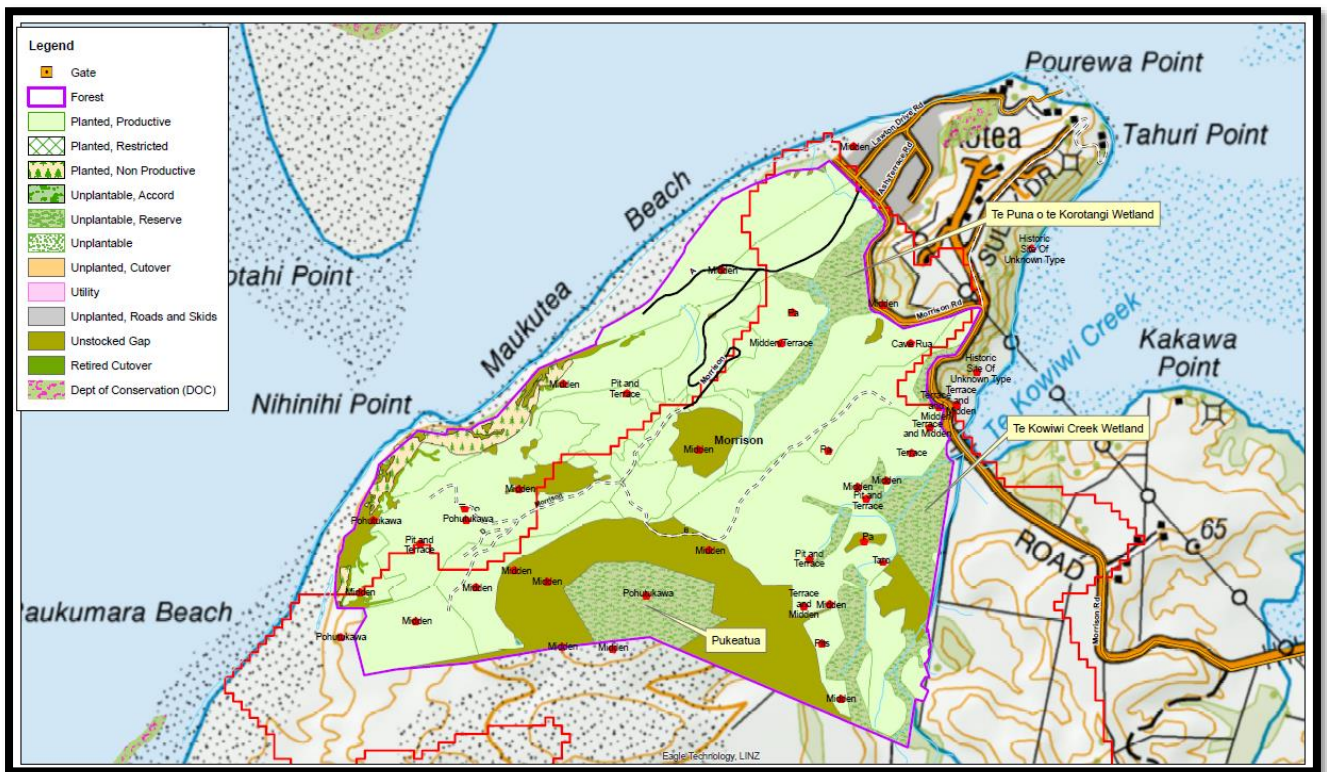


FIGURE 3: FOREST MAP SHOWING WETLANDS AND SAND FIELDS.

Historic Sites

The whole forest is of very high cultural significance to iwi. There are multiple known historic sites within Morrison Forest, including three pa sites, midden, and remnant taro plants with links to very early Māori settlement in the area. Most of the recorded archaeological sites in the forest are listed in the 'Recorded Archaeological Sites' schedules in the ODP. The exception to that is sites that have been identified and recorded after the District Plan became operative. The most recent archaeologists report (Appendix III) contains the most up to date listing of all recorded sites in the forest.

Hawaiki-iti, the wahi tapu which takes in most of the south-eastern portion of Morrison's Forest is listed in the NZ Heritage List (List no.9829). All 13 recorded archaeological sites within Hawaiki-iti are located within the boundary of the forest. A copy of the Hawaiki-iti listing report is provided with this application (appendix IV).

Te Puna o Korotangi wahi tapu is within the north-western area of the forest. MFM (NZ) has engaged Warren Gumbley to complete a report for Te Puna o Korotangi on behalf of Ngati Te Wehi with the intention of applying to Heritage NZ to list this area. A letter of support from Waikato Tainui for this listing is included with this application (Appendix V).

Hydrology

There are three spring fed streams that originate within the forest, all three are derived from the high sand plain at 100masl. The largest is Te Kowiwi Stream on the eastern forest margin which drains via Kowiwi wetland into Aotea Harbour. There are two unnamed streams on the west that drain towards Maukutea beach. One drains Te Puna o Korotangi wetland and then dissipates into the sand flat. The other drains the

coastal face and dissipates into the coastal sand flat without reaching the sea. It is marked by a deeply incised gully into fresh sand deposits.



FIGURE 4: TE KOWIWI CREEK WETLAND WITH OKAPU FARM (TO THE LEFT) AND BOUNDARY FENCE LINE VIEWED FROM MORRISON ROAD. NOTE THE TIDAL SALT-WATER INFLUENCE ON THE ROADSIDE VEGETATION. CAUSEWAY IS ON THE RIGHT.

Native Fauna

Birds

There are no known breeding or roosting coastal bird populations within the forest. However, the wetland areas within the forest could potentially provide feeding grounds and shelter. The production forest could potentially provide temporary habitat for native bird species. Multiple ecologists have visited the forest, and none have identified any bird species of note. The only documented ecologists reports we have are a report by Keith Thompson of his assessment of Te Puna o Korotangi wetland in 2009 and David Bergin of the sand dune area (Pukeatua). Both reports are included as Appendix XV. Neither mention the presence of any bird species.

Only common bird species have been observed in the forest. This is supported by the eDNA analysis undertaken on streams in the forest which to date has shown the presence of silver eyes, chaffinch, thrush, blackbird and gold finch.

Fish

A review of the NES PF Fish Spawning Indicator Tool shows that both the Te Kowiwi Creek and Te Puna o Korotangi wetland have been modelled as having over 50% probability of containing Redfin Bully, however none of the waterways in Morrison Forest have been sampled. Redfin Bullies are typically a rocky channel species, the limited size of the sandy catchments in Morrison Forest and the limited stream flow, choked with vegetation are not suitable for these species. The accessibility of Te Kowiwi stream to Aotea harbour means it could provide habitat for the species that use sluggish water with low oxygen - Banded Kokopu, Giant Kokopu, Longfin Eel and Shortfin Eel. Te Puna o Korotangi stream has been incorrectly mapped as reaching the sea which is why the modelling would have identified it as potential Redfin habitat. In reality it dissipates in the sand and is landlocked and therefore there is no way fish could access the stream.

Initial eDNA testing of two streams within the forest supports the descriptions above. No fish species were detected by the tests. The results of this testing are attached (Appendix XII).

Neighbours

To the north Morrison Forest is immediately adjacent to Aotea village. This is a small coastal community with a mixture of permanent residents and holiday houses.

The southern and eastern forest boundaries adjoin farmland, and the western boundary is the coast.

5. Assessment of Environmental Effects

Coastal Environment

The coastal marine area and water quality in the coastal marine area should not be impacted by the proposed earthworks. All earthworks will be within the bounds of the plantation forest and due to the sandy geology there is very limited overland water flow and therefore low risk of sediment loss.

Natural coastal processes should be unaffected by the proposed earthworks.

No coastal landforms recognised as being of geological interest, significance or importance should be impacted. No features in the coastal environment, including estuaries; coastal wetlands, mangrove swamps, salt or reed marshes, beaches, sea cliffs, or sand dunes should be impacted by the proposed earthworks.

Indigenous coastal vegetation will not be impacted as all proposed earthworks are within the pine plantation.

The risk of any debris being moved out of the forest is low. This is because of the predominantly gentle topography and short spring fed streams with low carrying capacity. As described in Section 4, the forest is mapped as low and moderate erosion susceptibility. However, MFM (NZ) is aware of the character of sandy soils. The combination of sand dunes in a strong westerly wind system will always make parts of the forest erodible without native or pine vegetation cover. Because of this, we will ensure that any soil disturbance will be the minimum required.

In the south-western quarter of the forest, there is a steep coastal face with stunted pine trees growing on it and visible erosion. This area has been retired from production and will not be harvested, to retain the stabilising effect of the trees. The retired coastal strip is shown in Appendix I. Retention of this strip will also minimise coastal landscape impact.

All earthworks will be undertaken in accordance with the NES PF, the MFM (NZ) Environmental Management System (EMS) and applicable provisions of the NZ Forest Owners Association Forest Practice Guides. The MFM (NZ) EMS includes operation specific environmental standards that must be complied with for all operations carried out in MFM (NZ) managed forests (See Appendix VI).

Freshwater Environment

As per section 4.3, there are three small spring-fed streams draining Morrison Forest. The most significant is Te Kowiwi Stream and the associated wetland vegetation on the eastern margin of the property adjacent to Okapu Farm. The wetland has been historically modified by the construction of a causeway and ongoing issues with wandering stock have resulted in extensive pugging. This wetland is outside the Coastal Policy Area.

The significance of this wetland and the neighbouring wetland on Okapu Farm, make it inappropriate to upgrade or use the causeway for forest traffic. All earthworks for roading and skids will be away from the stream and wetland with log extraction uphill to Morrison Road. No impact is expected on Te Kowiwi Stream or wetland from the proposed earthworks.

The second stream drains Te Puna o Korotangi, a spring fed wetland which is modified by old farm dams and drainage channels. Extensive pugging is also evident throughout this wetland. There is a drainage channel from this wetland however it has not to date ever been observed with any flow, even in winter. No impact is expected on Te Puna o Korotangi wetland system or stream from the proposed earthworks.

The third unnamed stream is has eroding banks, depositing sand into the stream within the forest boundary, however the stream dissipates into the sand before leaving the forest. Machinery operating in this area will be closely managed to minimise disturbance to the unstable sandy banks. Natural gully erosion in this area is

expected to continue and proposed operations will have a minor impact on this. No earthworks are planned within close proximity to this stream.

Refuelling will take place away from all waterways at a designated flat site with controls in place to ensure that in the event of a spill, it will be immediately contained.

Biodiversity

Earthworks are planned to avoid damage to the indigenous vegetation remnants within the forest. The wetlands and scattered old Pohutukawa trees within the plantation forest have been clearly identified on harvest plans and all efforts will be made to minimise disturbance to these.

Effects on indigenous vegetation will be limited to destruction of understory vegetation within the pine forest which is permitted under the NES PF. No other indigenous vegetation should be impacted by the harvesting or earthworks operations.

There are no known habitats of indigenous coastal species, including migratory birds within Morrison Forest.

There are two wetlands which could potentially provide feeding, breeding, or roosting grounds for coastal birds, however these areas will not be impacted by the proposed earthworks.

The surrounding pine forest, which could potentially provide animals with access to these grounds will be impacted by the proposed earthworks, but the impacts from earthworks will be minor.

Indigenous coastal vegetation will not be impacted, as all earthworks will be well within the plantation forest boundaries.

Heritage Values

Cultural sites are abundant along the west coast dune system and Aotea harbour margin.

Multiple archaeological assessments have been undertaken in Morrison Forest. The most recent was completed in December 2020 (Appendix III). This provides a discussion of heritage values and an assessment of proposed effects. This report also underpinned our application for an archaeological authority from Heritage New Zealand, which was granted in March 2022 (See appendix VII).

During the December 2020 survey, the data presented in the Otorohanga District Plan maps was compared to the current NZAA grid references on the site record forms and sites were inspected on the ground. This enabled the sites to be accurately located. Within Morrison Forest there are two registered historic places listed in the district plan; HP 13 and HP 14. Both are referred to by their NZAA site record numbers in the archaeological assessment. HP 13 is R15/210 and HP 14, R15/212. Both are midden sites and as described in appendix III proposed operations will have no impact on either site.

MFM (NZ) has held multiple hui with mana whenua, both Ngati Te Wehi and Ngati Patupo. Historic sites within the forest have also been visited with representatives of both iwi. The cultural importance of the area has been clearly expressed and iwi involvement will be central to ongoing management. This involvement is detailed in the draft cultural protocol included with this application (Appendix VII) This protocol is currently being finalised with input from iwi representatives. Representatives from both iwi have been nominated to work closely with MFM (NZ) as work in the forest progresses. The representatives are highlighted on the attached iwi contacts list (Appendix IX). An initial report from Davis Apiti as Ngati Te Wehi's representative is attached (Appendix XI).

If new sites are exposed during any activity, MFM (NZ) has in place a procedure for management of historic sites, including the identification of new sites. If any unexpected features are uncovered work will be stopped in the area, the site taped and MFM (NZ) will be notified. The archaeologist and iwi representatives will then be arranged to visit the area. In the event of discovery of human remains, Police will also be

contacted as required. This procedure is well understood, outlined in the EMS, and will be regularly refreshed with operators in the forest.

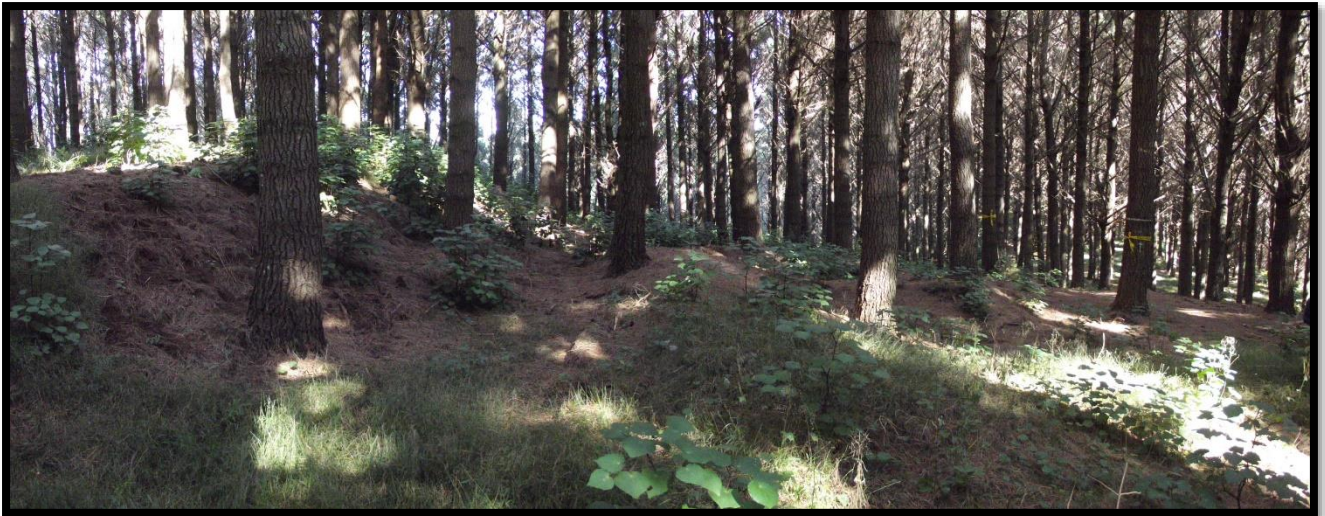


FIGURE 5: VIEW SOUTH ALONG EDGE OF PA R15-172. TOP TERRACE ON LEFT, DITCH IN MIDDLE AND PITS ON RIGHT OF PHOTO

Amenity Values

Otorohanga District Council has zoned the Pukeatua sand field as a Landscape of High Amenity Value. This classification is due to the high visibility and significant natural biodiversity and cultural values. This area is outside of the harvest area and will not be impacted. A new access road is planned along the northern edge of the sand field, this is well away from the area of regenerating pohutukawa in an area dominated by exotic weed species only.

Recreation Values

Morrison Forest is privately owned land and there is no permitted public use of the forest.

The Aotea Beach walkway runs through the coastal dunes immediately adjacent to the forest. Use of the walkway will not be impeded by the proposed earthworks. There will be a buffer of standing trees that will screen all earthworks from view of the walkway until harvesting takes place. During harvest it is intended to retain the coastal strip of stunted trees immediately alongside the walkway to serve as a buffer and windbreak after harvest. This buffer will be approximately 5-15m from the inland edge of the track depending on the trees and how safely they can be left standing. Taller trees will need to be felled to eliminate the risk of them blowing over in the wind. Shorter trees that can safely be left standing will be retained.

The proposed forest entrance is close to the start of the walkway and traffic generated from forestry activities could negatively impact the recreational experience at the start of the walkway, as well as enjoyment of the playground which is also located near the start of the walkway. This will be managed through proactive communication with the Aotea community, by imposing lowered speed limits on vehicles associated with forestry activities, particularly logging trucks, and by avoiding work on weekends, public holidays, and the summer holiday period from December 20th – January 7th.

Recognised Customary Activity

The forest is private land and currently there is no recognised customary activity provided for within the forest. The proposed earthworks should have no impact on recognised customary activity outside of the

forest boundary.

Infrastructure

The relatively easy contour within Morrison Forest will allow harvesting machinery practical access for most felling. This means minimal earthworks for road construction is required, however some roading infrastructure will still be required for log truck access. Wherever possible existing tracks will be upgraded to minimise landscape disturbance. See Appendix I for road and skid layout. See Appendix II for specific construction measures taken to minimise impacts.

There is no need for water and power to be supplied to this operation. There are no buildings planned for this operation apart from a portable toilet and a portable container to be used as an office, shelter, and storage site for small amounts of equipment.

Forest Access

There are three current access points off Morrison Road.

- 1 The causeway through Te Kowiwi Creek wetland. As discussed in section 5, this is not suitable to upgrade.
- 2 The entrance into Morrison Track off Morrison Road. Although this is a suitable grade, it is a difficult corner for sight visibility and for safety reasons is not suitable as an operational forest entrance.
- 3 The entrance adjacent to the Aotea Settlement between Lawton Drive and Ash Drive. This access is on flat ground with good vehicle visibility and for these reasons is the planned entrance to the forest.

Vehicle Movements

MFM (NZ) has held a number of meetings with local iwi and also two meetings with the residents at Aotea village. Both groups have raised their own concerns about forestry traffic. Aotea and Morrisons Roads are both sealed roads, but moderately windy and narrow. MFM (NZ) log trucks routinely operate on narrower unsealed public roads, however we appreciate that placing a significant number of trucks on a relatively quiet rural road will affect the other road users.

With the proposed operation MFM (NZ) aims to strike a balance between the number of vehicles and the amount of time that operation continues for.

The planned operations and associated vehicle movements, as outlined in section 3 are scheduled so that the numbers of crews/operators are minimised, without unnecessarily dragging out the time that the Aotea community are impacted by forestry activities.

To minimise disturbance to residents of Aotea village, MFM (NZ) proposed to restrict logging traffic to:

- 60kmph for all of Aotea and Morrison Roads.
- 30kmph for the section of Morrison Road from the proposed forest entrance until the straight beyond Cooper Drive.

It is recognised that Aotea is a popular holiday and weekend destination, and that general traffic will be busier on weekends and during summer. For these reasons MFM (NZ) will not operate on weekends and public holidays, excluding maintenance work, and will not operate over the Christmas/New Year break (Dec 20 – January 7th).

As an additional safety measure MFM (NZ) has offered to run a Share the Road program at Kawhia School.

Road Safety

A key concern for both iwi and local residents was the intersection of Aotea Rd and State Highway 31 which has an awkward alignment and poor visibility. The road has recently been used for harvesting on Okapu Farm, and concerns at the time were raised with logging trucks exiting Aotea Rd. MFM (NZ) staff have engaged with Waka Kotahi and their nominated agent WSP regarding the intersection and a number of upgrades have been agreed, including improved a reduced speed limit, warning signage, installation of mirrors and cutting back vegetation to improve visibility. The majority of this has already been implemented by Waka Kotahi in preparation for harvest.

MFM (NZ) engineering staff have also driven Morrison and Aotea Roads with the ODC roading engineer Lew Pulman, to assess the road for use by logging trucks. Again a number of improvements were agreed.

Measures to assess and improve road safety are detailed in the summary report in Appendix XIV.

Dust and Noise

The location of the harvesting in a windy, sandy, coastal location has the potential to generate dust for the local Aotea community. MFM (NZ) will limit vehicle speed, use suitable road metal, and dust suppression where necessary.

The noise from earthworks should be minimal and will be filtered by the forest. Noise from traffic generation will be managed with speed restrictions and a weekday operating window as outlined in the vehicle movements section above.

The flat area directly over Morrison Rd from the village (adjacent to the entrance) will be left as a buffer and not harvested until the end of operations. This will help to reduce the impacts of both dust and noise. MFM (NZ) will continue to liaise with the Aotea community through harvesting to ensure close communication is maintained and any issues resolved proactively.

Consideration of Alternatives

When planning operations, MFM (NZ) harvest planners and engineers assess all practical alternatives to arrive at the optimum solution for accessing and harvesting forests. This process considers safety, environmental, heritage, cultural and practical constraints. Operations are planned to minimise impacts on environmental values whilst balancing other factors.

For this site, the proposed roading and skid layout was designed with consideration for known heritage sites, environmental risk, community recreation values, existing reserves, neighbouring land use and road safety.

Monitoring

Weekly monitoring will be undertaken by MFM (NZ) staff during operations. This monitoring is documented and any non-compliance with environmental and operational standards is provided to the contractor with remediation work requested. Infrastructure is inspected following heavy rainfall events.

High risk areas such as wetland margins or mapped archaeological sites are inspected as part of the standard weekly monitoring. MFM (NZ) Environmental staff will also undertake regular auditing with nominated iwi

representatives. The archaeologist will also undertake post-harvest assessments of cultural sites as specified in the Heritage NZ Authority.

Additionally, we are working with iwi representatives to undertake monitoring of waterways and wetlands as harvesting progresses. We plan to utilise elements of Landcare Research's WETmak guide along with eDNA sampling and to incorporate these tools with mātauranga Māori. Appendix XI outlines the beginning of this process.

6. Consultation

Extensive consultation has been carried out in the lead up to harvest, as has already been described. We view consultation as an ongoing process, and we will continue to engage with all interested parties as the proposed operations progress. A summary of the consultation completed to date is outlined below with supporting information included as Appendix IX and X.

Landowner

The landowners have been involved in numerous discussions regarding the planned harvest, they are keen for harvesting to proceed as soon as possible.

Tangata Whenua

The forest is within the rohe of Ngati Te Wehi and Ngati Patupo.

Along with regular ongoing correspondence, MFM (NZ) staff have met with representatives of Ngati Te Wehi and Ngati Patupo through a series of hui from September 2015 through to March 2022. Minutes of these hui are included as Appendix X.

The cultural importance of the area to Ngati te Wehi, Ngati Patupo and all descendants of the Tainui and Aotea waka has been clearly expressed. There has been clear concern about the potential impacts of harvesting on the archaeological sites and wahi tapu. At the hui in October 2021 representatives of both Ngati te Wehi and Ngati Patupo agreed that it is their desire for trees to be removed from the area and therefore to support harvesting proceeding.

This support is clearly conditional on the correct processes and protocols being followed during harvest including:

- A cultural induction of contractors and their staff prior to commencement.
- Nominated iwi representatives being involved in detailed site planning, monitoring, and ensuring the correct protocols are followed during harvest.
- Protocols being in place in the event of koiwi, taonga or unrecorded features being discovered during harvest.
- Periodic reporting of harvesting progress back to Ngati te Wehi and Ngati Patupo.

Aotea Community

Consultation has been undertaken with the wider Aotea community via the Aotea Ratepayers Association. This includes a community meeting in February 2021 and a follow up meeting in April 2022. Questions were asked about effects on the township and these were discussed. No opposition to harvesting was raised.

A copy of the minutes from the two meetings are included in Appendix X.

Waka Kotahi

As noted above, consultation with Waka Kotahi was undertaken and approval was granted for the road safety improvements to the SH31 / Aotea Road intersection.

Otorohanga District Council Roothing Engineers

Consultation with ODC Roothing engineers and agreed outcomes are summarised in Appendix XIV.

7. Assessment of Proposed Activity Specific to Relevant Provisions of the Otorohanga District Plan.

TABLE 5. THE RELEVANT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES OF THE OTOROHANGA DISTRICT PLAN

Issue	Assessment
<p>Issue 1 - Natural Landscapes, Indigenous Biodiversity and Mineral and Soil Resources.</p> <p>Significant Issues</p> <p>1.1.1 Risk of adversely affecting the values of Outstanding Landscapes and Landscapes of High Amenity Value resulting from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • earthworks; • land use and subdivision activities; • clearance or modification of indigenous vegetation; <p>1.4.1 Potential loss of indigenous biological diversity, including indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna, and visual amenity, cultural and heritage values caused by clearance or modification of indigenous vegetation.</p> <p>1.7.1 The need to recognise the national, regional and district benefits associated with the extraction of mineral resources.</p> <p>1.7.2 Risk of nuisance effects caused by earthworks, including the excavation of soil and other materials.</p>	<p>The LHAV identified within Morrison Forest will not be adversely impacted by the proposed earthworks, the infrastructure layout has been planned to avoid disturbance within this area.</p> <p>Indigenous biological diversity within the forest is largely contained within the wetlands and areas already reserved from planting. These areas will be protected and the proposed operational plans show how this will be achieved. No significant indigenous vegetation is at risk from the proposed activity. No habitats of indigenous fauna are at risk of being lost. Visual amenity will be improved with ocean views being restored for residents of Aotea after harvest is complete. Cultural and heritage values have been clearly expressed and detailed protocols are in place to protect them including an Archaeological Authority from Heritage New Zealand and cultural monitoring by Ngati Te Wehi and Ngati Patupo.</p> <p>No mineral resources will be impacted.</p> <p>Earthworks are the minimum possible and it is not anticipated that there will be any nuisance effects.</p>
<p>Issue 2 – Coastal Environment</p> <p>Significant Issues</p> <p>2.1.1 Potential loss of the natural character and historic heritage values of the coastal environment caused by inappropriate land use, development and subdivision including cumulative effects.</p> <p>2.1.2 Coastal hazards and important values, including landscape and natural character, physical coastal processes and features, coastal ecology, public access and amenity may affect or be affected by land use or subdivision activities.</p> <p>2.1.3 Potential restriction of public access to and along the coastal marine area.</p>	<p>The natural character and historic heritage values of the coastal environment have been carefully considered in this application and detailed measures are in place as outlined in operational plans and supporting documents to ensure that these are protected and that no loss occurs.</p> <p>Coastal hazards, landscape and natural character are addressed in the application. Erosion is noted as a risk and mitigation measures are identified. Public access and amenity to the Aotea coastal walkway has been carefully considered and will be closely</p>

	<p>managed in conjunction with the Aotea Community.</p> <p>For safety reasons when falling trees within 60m (two tree lengths) of the coastal marine area, public access will need to be restricted for short periods of time. This will be timed so that the interruption is as minimal as possible, again this will be closely managed in conjunction with the Aotea Community.</p>
<p>Issue 4 – Natural Hazards</p> <p>Significant Issues</p> <p>4.1.1 Risk of material damage to land, and risk to human life and property caused by natural hazards.</p> <p>4.1.2 Inappropriate land use and subdivision activities creating or accelerating existing or potential natural hazard risks.</p> <p>4.1.3 As a result of climate change, the district is at risk from increasing sea levels and greater climate variability, including changing temperature and rainfall patterns and increasing storm intensities.</p>	<p>Coastal erosion is a natural hazard that has been carefully considered in the planning of the proposed operations. The only area of the forest that has a risk of causing coastal erosion is the steep coastal strip along the southern part of the block. For this reason trees in this area will be excluded from harvest and retained. There is minimal risk of material damage to land and property through erosion. It poses no appreciable risk to life.</p> <p>The proposed activity is not considered inappropriate and is not anticipated to accelerate natural hazard risks. The identified coastal tree to be left after harvest will provide ongoing erosion mitigation and continued stability in the coastal zone to buffer rising sea levels and increasing storm intensities.</p>
<p>Issue 7 - Historic Heritage</p> <p>Significant Issue</p> <p>7.1.1 Risk of alteration to, modification or destruction of, historic heritage values of sites, buildings, places, notable trees and their relationship to the surrounding area from inappropriate land use, development or subdivision.</p>	<p>Historic sites within the forest have been carefully surveyed and detailed protocols are in place to ensure they are protected throughout the proposed operation. An Archaeological Authority for the proposed activity has been granted by Heritage New Zealand and cultural protocols are also in place to ensure tikanga is observed and sites are respected. There are also accidental site discovery protocols in place for any historic sites that are uncovered during operations. This issue is well understood and will be carefully managed as outlined in the application and supporting documents.</p>
<p>Issue 8 – Safety of Road Users</p> <p>Significant Issues</p>	<p>Significant work has gone into understanding road safety risks and identifying and implementing safety</p>

<p>8.1.1 Risk to the safety of road users and the efficient operation of roads created by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inappropriately designed or located vehicle entranceways; • the volume of traffic created by an activity; • shading of roads and restriction of sight lines by trees and crops; • the use of roads, intersections, private accessways and railway crossings; • obstruction of sight lines at road intersections and railway level crossings; • poorly designed or located signs; • glare or light spillage; • dust drift; • inadequate mitigation measures accompanying development; • inadequate on site parking provision; • poorly designed or located onsite parking and loading spaces; and • poorly designed roading layouts. 	<p>improvements. These are outlined in detail in the application and supporting documents.</p> <p>The forest entranceway was located at the safest access point. Traffic volumes have been minimised as much as possible. Shading of the road will be improved by harvest. Road use has been assessed and recommended safety improvements are in the process of being completed. Dust has been recognised as a potential issue and mitigation measures are identified in the application.</p>
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TABLE 6. THE RELEVANT ASSESSMENT CRITERIA OF THE OTOROHANGA DISTRICT PLAN (SECTION 24 – LAND USE CHAPTER)

Assessment Criteria	Discussion
<p>24.1 District Wide Rules</p>	<p>This application addresses the relevant issues in the ODP, see table 5. In addressing these issues, this application is considered consistent with the objectives and policies contained in the land use chapter of the ODP.</p> <p>Potential adverse effects have been identified and significant work has gone into planning for avoidance and mitigation of these effects.</p>
<p>24.4. Indigenous Vegetation Rule 4.8 – Discretionary Activity</p>	<p>The proposed activity is located within exotic plantation forest and the proposed earthworks follow existing farm tracks. This proposed activity is compliant with rule 4.8.</p>
<p>24.5. Earthworks Rule 5.6 – Discretionary Activity</p>	<p>The proposed earthworks have been carefully planned to minimise potential adverse effects as outlined in the OPD Assessment Criteria. Where the effects cannot be avoided, appropriate mitigation strategies have been identified. The earthworks are considered low risk.</p>
<p>24.6. Natural Hazards Rule 6.4 – Discretionary Activity Rule 6.5 – Discretionary Activity</p>	<p>As assessed in table 5, relevant natural hazards have been identified and appropriate mitigation strategies have been put in place to manage these risks.</p>
<p>24.10. Vehicle Access and Traffic Generation Rule 12.2 – Discretionary Activity</p>	<p>Traffic generated by this activity exceeds the permitted levels. However, the applicant has minimised the amount of traffic that will be generated and has consulted with affected parties. Where concerns were raised during consultation,</p>

	the applicant has taken significant steps to address these concerns and has already enacted measures to improve road safety and to minimise disturbance from heavy vehicles by imposing voluntary speed restrictions on heavy vehicles associated with the proposed activity. It is considered that the adverse effects from the proposed activity have been identified, avoided where possible and appropriately mitigated to the point where the impacts on rural character; neighbourhood character; the safety and/or existing function of roads in the District will be minor.
24.16. Historic Heritage Sites and Notable Trees Rule 21.4 – Discretionary Activity	As addressed in table 5. Detailed protocols are in place for historic site management as part of the proposed activity. Extensive iwi consultation has been undertaken and the application shows commitment to ongoing collaboration with mana whenua. A Heritage New Zealand authority is in place and the proposed activity has been carefully considered to minimise impacts on heritage sites.
24.17. Hazardous Substances Rule 22.2 –Discretionary Activity	Management of hazardous substances is outlined in the EMS manual provided. This is detailed and a normal part of best practice forestry operations. Hazardous substances required as part of the proposed activity pose minimal risk to the environment.
24.18. Surface Water Rule 23.2 – Discretionary Activity	The proposed activity will not have an adverse effect on the recreational and conservation attributes of waterways in the surrounding area.

TABLE 7. RELEVANT MATTERS OF DISCRETION, LAND USE CHAPTER RULE 21.3

Matter of Discretion	Proposed Measures
3.5 Any proposed earthworks which does not comply with standard 3A is a discretionary activity.	Outlined in Section 5 and Appendices I – III.
12.2 Any activity which does not comply with standards 12A or 12B or 12C is a discretionary activity.	Outlined in Section 5
21.3 Any proposed activity which does not comply with standard 21A and/or 21B is a restricted discretionary activity. The Council will restrict the exercise of its discretion to the following matters: (a) the identification of the extent of any recorded archaeological site identified on the	Outlined in Section 5 and Appendices I – III.

<p>Planning Maps and/or in Appendices 7 or 8, or any site of significance as shown on the Planning Maps and in Appendix 8A; and</p> <p>(b) methods for protecting any recorded archaeological site identified on the Planning Maps and/or in Appendices 7 and 8, or any site of significance as shown on the Planning Maps and in Appendix 8A from physical damage; and</p> <p>(c) The extent to which the activity affects the integrity of and the contribution that the archaeological site makes to its surrounding area; and</p> <p>(d) Methods to avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects arising from any activity on the recorded historic heritage site including but not limited to, methods for maintaining and enhancing the heritage values of the site and structures.</p>	
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8 RMA Assessment

Notification Provisions of the Resource Management Act 1991

95A Public Notification of Consent Applications	Assessment
<p>Step 1: mandatory public notification in certain circumstances</p> <p>(2) Determine whether the application meets any of the criteria set out in subsection (3) and,—</p> <p>(a) if the answer is yes, publicly notify the application; and</p> <p>(b) if the answer is no, go to step 2.</p> <p>(3) The criteria for step 1 are as follows:</p> <p>(a) the applicant has requested that the application be publicly notified;</p> <p>(b) public notification is required under section 95C;</p> <p>(c) the application is made jointly with an application to exchange recreation reserve land under section 15AA of the Reserves Act 1977.</p>	<p>The criteria for public notification in subsection 3 are not met. Proceed to step 2.</p>
<p>Step 2: if not required by step 1, public notification precluded in certain circumstances</p>	<p>The criteria for public notification in subsection 5 are not met. Proceed to step 3.</p>

<p>(4) Determine whether the application meets either of the criteria set out in subsection (5) and,— (a) if the answer is yes, go to step 4 (step 3 does not apply); and (b) if the answer is no, go to step 3.</p> <p>(5) The criteria for step 2 are as follows: (a) the application is for a resource consent for 1 or more activities, and each activity is subject to a rule or national environmental standard that precludes public notification: (b) the application is for a resource consent for 1 or more of the following, but no other, activities: (i) a controlled activity: (ii) [Repealed] (iii) a restricted discretionary, discretionary, or non-complying activity, but only if the activity is a boundary activity.</p>	
<p>Step 3: if not precluded by step 2, public notification required in certain circumstances (7) Determine whether the application meets either of the criteria set out in subsection (8) and,— (a) if the answer is yes, publicly notify the application; and (b) if the answer is no, go to step 4.</p> <p>(8) The criteria for step 3 are as follows: (a) the application is for a resource consent for 1 or more activities, and any of those activities is subject to a rule or national environmental standard that requires public notification: (b) the consent authority decides, in accordance with section 95D, that the activity will have or is likely to have adverse effects on the environment that are more than minor.</p>	<p>The criteria for public notification in subsection 8 are not met. Proceed to step 4.</p>
<p>Step 4: public notification in special circumstances (9) Determine whether special circumstances exist in relation to the application that warrant the application being publicly notified and,— (a) if the answer is yes, publicly notify the application; and (b) if the answer is no, do not publicly notify the application, but determine whether to give limited notification of the application under section 95B.</p>	<p>The criteria for public notification in subsection 9 are not met. Public notification is not required.</p>

95B Limited Notification of Consent Applications	Assessment
<p>Step 1: certain affected groups and affected persons must be notified</p> <p>(2) Determine whether there are any—</p> <p>(a) affected protected customary rights groups; or</p> <p>(b) affected customary marine title groups (in the case of an application for a resource consent for an accommodated activity).</p> <p>(3) Determine—</p> <p>(a) whether the proposed activity is on or adjacent to, or may affect, land that is the subject of a statutory acknowledgement made in accordance with an Act specified in Schedule 11; and</p> <p>(b) whether the person to whom the statutory acknowledgement is made is an affected person under section 95E.</p> <p>(4) Notify the application to each affected group identified under subsection (2) and each affected person identified under subsection (3).</p>	<p>There are no protected customary rights groups, or customary marine title groups that are affected by this activity. Proceed to Step 2.</p>
<p>Step 2: if not required by step 1, limited notification precluded in certain circumstances</p> <p>(5) Determine whether the application meets either of the criteria set out in subsection (6) and,—</p> <p>(a) if the answer is yes, go to step 4 (step 3 does not apply); and</p> <p>(b) if the answer is no, go to step 3.</p> <p>(6) The criteria for step 2 are as follows:</p> <p>(a) the application is for a resource consent for 1 or more activities, and each activity is subject to a rule or national environmental standard that precludes limited notification:</p> <p>(b) the application is for a controlled activity (but no other activities) that requires a resource consent under a district plan (other than a subdivision of land).</p>	<p>There is no rule in the plan or national environmental standard that precludes notification. The application is not a controlled activity. Therefore Step 2 does not apply and Step 3 must be considered.</p>
<p>Step 3: if not precluded by step 2, certain other affected persons must be notified</p> <p>(7) In the case of a boundary activity, determine in accordance with section 95E whether an owner of an allotment with an infringed boundary is an affected person.</p> <p>(8) In the case of any other activity, determine whether a person is an affected person in accordance with section 95E.</p> <p>(9) Notify each affected person identified under subsections (7) and (8) of the application.</p>	<p>The activity is not a boundary activity. In accordance with S95E, it is considered that the proposed activities will have a minor effect on properties immediately adjacent to the forest entrance. ODC propose that these parties are notified and this is supported by MFM (NZ).</p>

<p>Step 4: further notification in special circumstances</p> <p>(10) Determine whether special circumstances exist in relation to the application that warrant notification of the application to any other persons not already determined to be eligible for limited notification under this section (excluding persons assessed under section 95E as not being affected persons), and,—</p> <p>(a) if the answer is yes, notify those persons; and</p> <p>(b) if the answer is no, do not notify anyone else.</p>	<p>As mana whenua with particular interest in the archaeological, environmental, and cultural aspects of the proposed activity, Ngati Te Wehi and Ngati Patupo are considered affected parties.</p> <p>Extensive consultation has been undertaken with both, and both have indicated their support for harvesting proceeding subject to a number of agreed conditions. ODC propose that both parties are notified and this is supported by MFM (NZ).</p>
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Part 2 of the Resource Management Act 1991

Part 2 RMA	Assessment of proposed activity
<p>Purpose</p> <p>(1) The purpose of this Act is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources.</p> <p>(2) In this Act, sustainable management means managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being and for their health and safety while—</p> <p>(a) sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources (excluding minerals) to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; and</p> <p>(b) safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil, and ecosystems; and</p> <p>(c) avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment.</p>	<p>The proposed activity is earthworks and traffic generation to facilitate harvest of a plantation forest.</p> <p>As described in the AEE and associated documents, the proposed operations have been carefully considered. Potential risks have been identified and methods to avoid, remedy or mitigate them have been outlined to ensure that natural and physical resources are sustained, and that the life supporting capabilities of the land, water and air will not be adversely affected by proposed operations within the forest.</p>
<p>6 Matters of national importance</p> <p>In achieving the purpose of this Act, all persons exercising functions and powers under it, in relation to managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources, shall recognise and provide for the following matters of national importance:</p> <p>(a) the preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment (including the coastal marine area), wetlands, and</p>	<p>Matters listed 'a', 'c', 'd', 'e', 'f', and 'h' are relevant to this application.</p> <p>a. The proposed activities will not affect the natural character of the coastal environment. Measures to protect the waterways and wetlands within the forest are outlined in the application and supporting documents.</p> <p>c. The proposed activities will not adversely impact any significant indigenous vegetation or significant habitats of indigenous fauna.</p>

<p>lakes and rivers and their margins, and the protection of them from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development:</p> <p>(b) the protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development:</p> <p>(c) the protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna:</p> <p>(d) the maintenance and enhancement of public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes, and rivers:</p> <p>(e) the relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga:</p> <p>(f) the protection of historic heritage from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development:</p> <p>(g) the protection of protected customary rights</p> <p>(h) the management of significant risks from natural hazards.</p>	<p>d. Operations will be carefully managed to ensure that the proposed activities will not adversely impact public access or enjoyment of the coastal marine area. The Aotea Coastal Walkway is immediately adjacent to the forest and will need to be temporarily closed to ensure public safety when felling trees close by. Timing of this will be managed to minimise impacts, as outline din the application, close communication with the local community is planned throughout the proposed operations.</p> <p>e. The cultural significance of the area is respected, and a high importance has been placed on protecting waahi tapu, environmental and archaeological values within the forest. This is evidenced throughout the application and in the consultation and prior work undertaken.</p> <p>f. Significant work has already been undertaken to identify the historic heritage within the forest and detailed protocols are in place to protect it throughout the proposed operations. Including an Archaeological Authority from Heritage New Zealand.</p> <p>h. Erosion is a risk on any coastal site. Operations have been planned to minimise the risk of erosion and to leave buffers of standing trees where practical for stability and shelter in the coastal zone.</p>
<p>7 Other matters</p> <p>In achieving the purpose of this Act, all persons exercising functions and powers under it, in relation to managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources, shall have particular regard to—</p> <p>(a) kaitiakitanga:</p> <p>(aa) the ethic of stewardship:</p> <p>(b) the efficient use and development of natural and physical resources:</p> <p>(ba) the efficiency of the end use of energy:</p> <p>(c) the maintenance and enhancement of amenity values:</p> <p>(d) intrinsic values of ecosystems:</p> <p>(e) [Repealed]</p> <p>(f) maintenance and enhancement of the quality of the environment:</p>	<p>All other matters have been considered and where appropriate have been addressed in the AEE.</p>

<p>(g) any finite characteristics of natural and physical resources: (h) the protection of the habitat of trout and salmon: (i) the effects of climate change: (j) the benefits to be derived from the use and development of renewable energy</p>	
<p>8 Treaty of Waitangi In achieving the purpose of this Act, all persons exercising functions and powers under it, in relation to managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources, shall take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi).</p>	<p>The extensive consultation, commitment to operational partnerships with iwi and detailed operational plans are all examples of the environmental measures taken to protect the natural and physical resources of the site in accordance with the principals of the Treaty of Waitangi.</p>

Appendix I. Operational Maps

Appendix II. Operational Plans

Appendix III. Archaeology Report

Appendix IV. Hawaiki Iti Listing Report

Appendix V. Tainui Letter of Support for Te Puna o Korotangi Listing

Appendix VI. Environmental Systems Manual

Appendix VII. Heritage New Zealand Authority

Appendix VIII. Draft Cultural Management Protocol

Appendix IX. Iwi Contacts List

Appendix X. Records of Consultation

Appendix XI. Davis Apiti Site Consultation Report 23 March 2022

Appendix XII. Initial eDNA Results

Appendix XIII. Road Upgrade Works Access Permit

Appendix XIV. Morrison Forest Road Safety Assessment and Improvement Summary

Appendix XV. Ecologist Reports Morrison Forest