



## Forest Strategy FAQs

### Why do we need a Forest Strategy?

The forest sector is strategically important to New Zealand, contributing jobs and regional development, export earnings, environmental benefits and carbon absorption. New Zealand's forests and trees also support the wellbeing of our people, our indigenous animals and eco-systems, and are part of our national identity.

Over future decades the role that forests and trees play will become even more crucial, especially for Māori for whom forest assets form a significant part of their economic portfolios.

The Government has stated its intention to drive transformational change across the forest sector. It considers that the forest sector can contribute to a range of social, economic and environmental outcomes to improve New Zealanders' wellbeing. These include:

- moving to a low emissions economy
- improving environmental and climate change outcomes
- supporting economic development in some of our most deprived regions
- supporting Māori cultural and economic aspirations for their land
- enabling more value added wood processing.

New technologies (from growing trees, to harvesting, to end-use products) will also create a range of opportunities to adapt and re-think the way commercial and non-commercial forestry operates.

Several forest-related organisations and individuals have also signalled a desire for an ambitious future-focused plan for forest-related activities.

### What will the Forest Strategy do?

Forestry, forests and trees have a long lifespan that requires long-term thinking and actions.

The Forest Strategy will set the direction for the forest sector over the next 30 years. It will reflect the longer term and broader aspirations of the forest sector, beyond the One Billion Trees Programme, and establish a sector-wide course of action for achieving these.

The Strategy will help establish a common vision, a road map for getting there, a shared understanding of priority areas for action in the short, medium and long terms, clarity around the roles and responsibilities to deliver the actions, and ways in which participants can work better together.

The Forest Strategy is not just for Government and one of the things we will be discussing as part of the development of the strategy will be how the Strategy might guide the sector's planning and operations.

### What is the Forest Sector?

There is currently no widely adopted definition of 'forestry' or 'the forest sector'.

Both terms can be used to refer to forest-related industries, particularly exotic plantations, but the forest sector is much broader than that.

We are aiming to define it in the early stages of developing the strategy.



It could encompass all the organisations and people involved with plantation and permanent forests, exotic and indigenous forests, activities across the value chain (from the way we grow, manage, use and benefit from forests, to harvesting and end products in market) as well as trees outside commercial forests such as on farms, in urban areas, forests and trees supporting health and well-being, or providing recreational and cultural benefits.

### How will we develop the Strategy?

Te Uru Rākau is leading development of the Forest Strategy for New Zealand. Ministers have approved a terms of reference and we expect to complete the strategy by mid-2020.

It's important the forest sector, and others with an interest in forests and trees, play an active part in developing the Strategy. Strategy development will be a shared activity using a collaborative approach to bring together the knowledge and expertise of the organisations, individuals, government agencies, and Māori who make up the forest sector. It will use a combination of hui, workshops, focus groups and face to face meetings.

This shared process of developing the Strategy should contribute to a more joined up sector through which we can refresh and update it over time.

### Who will be involved?

There will be specific opportunities for all forest-related organisations and businesses to participate in developing the Strategy.

The forest sector is complex with a broad range of interest groups and professional organisations, including government, private business, and communities. Māori as kaitiaki, landowners, workers and businesses play a significant role.

These groups and organisations will all be important towards developing and implementing a Strategy that is future focused and fit for purpose.

### How can I or my organisation be involved?

We want to make sure that everyone who wants to participate in developing the Forest Strategy is able to do so.

From May 2019, we're organising meetings, workshops and hui to start developing the Strategy.

If you belong to a forest-related organisation, check that your organisation has been contacted by Te Uru Rākau. If they have, they'll already be involved and you can participate through them. If they haven't yet been contacted, please email [foreststrategy@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:foreststrategy@mpi.govt.nz) and provide your contact details.

We're still working on the best way to discuss and work with everyone, so if you have a great idea for how we can work with you or your region, industry or organisation, please get in touch with us [foreststrategy@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:foreststrategy@mpi.govt.nz).

### How long will it take?

We plan to have a Strategy document approved for publication by July 2020. Over the next six months (May to October 2019), Te Uru Rākau will be working with as many groups and experts as possible to develop a draft Strategy.



Further workshops will be used to finalise the Strategy. If required, a formal public consultation process may also be used.

### What happens when the Strategy is finished?

The Strategy will set out priority actions for the short, medium and longer terms. These will be developed into an implementation plan with specific owners, timeframes, and ways to monitor each action.

The collaborative process used to develop the Strategy will continue to be used to support its implementation and sustainability, and enable it to be reviewed and refreshed over the next three decades and beyond.

### How can I keep updated on progress?

We will be providing regular updates on our website at [www.mpi.govt.nz/foreststrategy](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/foreststrategy)