



Plantation Forestry Department Environmental Policy

2000

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Plantation Forestry Department Environmental Policy

The Plantation Forestry department (PF) operates a commercial forestry business based on the propagation and harvest of exotic species of trees. These activities take place on Wellington Regional Council land and in most cases the commercial forestry areas are surrounded by regenerating natural forest. Much of the plantation land was acquired as future water catchment. At this stage the use of the land for this purpose is not within current planning horizons. This policy applies the environmental standards adopted by Council to the specific activities of PF.

The Plantation Forestry Department in recognition of these standards undertakes to:

- 9 Comply with all relevant laws and with any standards to which the Wellington Regional Council subscribes.
- 9 Monitor the environmental effects and risks of all activities, and through the adoption of “best industry practice” avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects.
- 9 Minimise pollution of the environment by the adoption of procedures for the handling and disposal of hazardous substances and waste.
- 9 **Recognise** and operate within the natural limits of renewable resources, and conserve non-renewable resources such as fuels and materials.
- 9 Ann for no net loss of significant habitats or ecosystems.
- 9 Consider the environmental implications of business decisions
- 9 Ensure that all staff are aware of the importance of the environmental performance of the department and the environmental implications of the activities they undertake.
- 9 Specify the environmental requirements to be met by third parties engaged by the department.
- 9 Where practicable, include consideration of environmental performance in the selection of contractors and suppliers.
- 9 Continuously monitor environmental performance by the department with a view to identifying any areas where performance can be improved.
- 9 Make this environmental policy available to the public with all other such policies adopted by Council.
- 9 Review this policy and the supporting systems on a regular basis.
- Report annually on the environmental performance of the department.

Environmental Management System: Objectives and Targets

1. Legal Compliance

Policy

Comply with all relevant laws and standards to which the Wellington Regional Council subscribes.

Objective

- 1.1 *Be aware of all legislation, regulations, bylaws and standards that are relevant to the environmental performance of the Department*

Targets

- 1.1.1 Compile a record of all-current legislation, regulations and local authority bylaws pertaining to environmental issues by 31 December 2001
Responsibility: Manager Plantation Forestry
- 1.1.2 Establish a mechanism that monitors new legislation, regulations and local authority bylaws, and identifies those with environmental implications for the Department by 31 December 2001
Responsibility: Manager Plantation Forestry
- 1.1.3 Maintain a file of all current resource consents issued to the Department.
Responsibility: Manager Plantation Forestry
- 1.1.4 Maintain a file of all permitted activity rules relevant to plantation forestry activities.
Responsibility: Manager Plantation Forestry

Objective

- 1.2 *Comply with all legislation, regulations, bylaws and adopted standards that are relevant to the environmental performance of the Plantation Forestry Department*

Targets

- 1.2.1 Obtain all necessary resource consents and building permits for new work or changes to operation of the plantation.
Responsibility: Manager Plantation Forestry
- 1.2.2 Ensure that all chemical management and storage activities comply with applicable hazardous substance legislation.
Responsibility: Forest Ranger (Plantation Operations)

Objective

- 1.3 *Demonstrate compliance with all legislation, regulations, bylaws and adopted standards that 'are relevant to the environmental performance of the Plantation Forestry Department.*

Targets

- 1.3.1 Obtain and record independent advice that demonstrates that the Department is complying with all of its resource consents.
Responsibility: Manager Plantation Forestry
- 1.3.2 Carry out and report all monitoring required by resource consents at the frequency required.
Responsibility: Forest Ranger (Plantation Operations)
- 1.3.3 Carry out and report all monitoring required by hazardous substance legislation, where such matters are not covered by resource consents.
Responsibility: Forest Ranger (Plantation Operations)

2. Environmental Risks

Policy

Evaluate the environmental effects and risks of all activities, and adopt all reasonable means, including consideration of alternatives, to eliminate remedy or mitigate these effects.

Objective

- 2.1 *Identify all activities with environmental impacts and assess the significance of these impacts.*

Target

- 2.1 .1 Adopt a systematic procedure for identifying activities that have environmental impacts and establish the relative significance of each by 31 December 2001.
Responsibility: Manager Plantation Forestry

Objective

- 2.2 *Investigate and adopt where reasonable, alternative practices or methods which will reduce the environmental impact of an activity.*

Target

- 2.2.1 Adopt policies, procedures and practices to eliminate environmental risk if practicable, or to reduce it to an acceptable level.
Responsibility: The establishment of the EMS will in itself address this target.

Objective

- 2.3 *For new projects or activities, consider environmental aspects when choosing between options.*

Targets

- 2.3.1 All capital project briefs will include a requirement to assess the environmental effects of the project and to justify favoured methodology on these grounds.
Responsibility: Manager Plantation Forestry
- 2.3.2 Before any significant alterations to work procedures or methods are adopted, potential environmental effects shall be considered and any of significance avoided or mitigated.
Responsibility: Manager Plantation Forestry, Forest Ranger (Plantation Operations)

3. Pollution Prevention**Policy**

To minimise any pollution of the environment. Wastes will be treated and disposed of in a safe manner. Where practicable, waste will be reduced through the use of alternative processes, reuse, recycling or conversion to by-products.

Objective

- 3.1 *Adopt all practicable means to prevent pollution of the environment.*

Targets

- 3.1.1 Review chemical storage facilities to ensure that the risk of uncontrolled chemical spills is minimised.
Responsibility: Forest Ranger (Plantation Operations)
- 3.1.2 Ensure that all contractors using chemicals are suitably trained and have adequate management plans to support this training. Undertake inspections to ensure stated practices are maintained.
Responsibility: Forest Ranger (Plantation Operations)

Objective

- 3.2 *Treat and dispose of wastes in an environmentally safe manner.*

Target

- 3.2.1 Dispose of liquid wastes in an environmentally safe manner by identifying the main components of waste liquids and ensuring these are diluted or neutralised before disposal.
Responsibility: Forest Ranger (Plantation Operations)

Objective

- 3.3 *Adopt policies, procedures and practices that will reduce waste.*

Target

- 3.3.1 Review all ongoing activities with a view to minimising waste.
Responsibility: Manager Plantation Forestry, Forest Ranger (Plantation Operations)

4. Renewable Resources

Policy

Recognise and operate within the natural limits of natural resources.

Objective

- 4.1 *Recognise the natural fertility limits of soil.*

Targets

- 4.1.1 Monitor and test for soil nutrient levels.
Responsibility: Forest Ranger (Plantation Operations)
- 4.1.2 Seek to leave as much biodegradable material on site as possible.
Responsibility: Forest Ranger (Plantation Operations)
- 4.1.3 Minimise soil disturbance during forestry operations.
Responsibility: Contractors, Forest Ranger (Plantation Operations)
- 4.1.4 Comply with the conditions of any relevant Resource Consent or Regional policy.
Responsibility: Contractors, Forest Ranger (Plantation Operations)

5. Ecological Damage

Policy

Aim for no net loss of significant habitats and ecosystems.

Objective

- 5.1 *Prevent damage to significant habitats and ecosystems.*

Targets

- 5.1.1 Where possible ensure all felling is away from waterways to protect any riparian vegetation present.
Responsibility: Contractors, Forest Ranger (Plantation Operations)

- 5.1.2 When replanting increase riparian margins to ensure an adequate filtration of surface water runoff.
Responsibility: Contractors, Forest Ranger (Plantation Operations)
- 5.1.3 During logging and road construction control runoff water to avoid siltation of natural waterways.
Responsibility: Contractors, Forest Ranger (Plantation Operations)

6. Business Decisions

Policy

Consider the environmental implications of business decisions.

Objective

- 6.1 *All recommendations made by the Utilities Services Committee involving investment or the use of natural resources shall include an assessment of the anticipated environmental impacts.*

Target

- 6.1.1 All reports to the Utilities Services Committee proposing investment or use of physical resources shall address the environmental aspects of the proposal, including any practicable alternative course of action.
Responsibility: Manager Plantation Forestry.

7. Adoption of “Best Industry Practice”

Policy

Improve environmental performance by monitoring the “best practice” within the industry and adopting similar standards.

Objective

- 7.1 *To become aware of changes in operating methodology within the industry which results in **cost-effective** improvements to environmental practices.*

Target

- 7.1 .1 Monitor predominant industry publications and follow up practices that show potential to meet this objective.
Responsibility: Manager Plantation Forestry, Forestry Ranger (Plantation Operations)

8. Contractors and Suppliers

Policy

Specify the environmental standards required from third parties engaged by Plantation Forestry and where practicable include consideration of environmental performance in the assessment of contractors and suppliers.

Objective

- 8.1 *Ensure that third parties engaged by Plantation Forestry are aware of environmental matters or concerns associated with the work they are engaged to do.*

Target

- 8.1.1 All formally documented works and supply contracts shall include any applicable environmental requirements.
Responsibility: Manager Plantation Forestry

Objective

- 8.2 *Where practicable the **environmental performance** of a contractor or supplier shall be taken into account in the assessment of tenders.*

Target

- 8.2.1 Include environmental performance as an attribute when assessing tenders for major works or supply contracts by the weighted attribute method.
Responsibility: Manager Plantation Forestry.

9. Stakeholder Reporting

Policy

Report annually on the environmental performance of the Department.

Objective

- 9.1 *To report annually on the targets set out in this document and on Resource Consent compliance.*

Target

- 9.1.1 Include within the departmental annual report a statement recording the level of resource consent compliance.
Responsibility: Manager Plantation Forestry