

Transport and Cartage



Forestry for life



EWC BOARD: Candice Gate (Health & Safety Consultant, McKay Cartage) Georgia Graig (East Coast Manager, Pacific Forest Products Ltd) Dylan Foster (general manager, JNL) Danny Boyle (regional manager, Summit Forests New Zealand). Daniel Williams (general manager, Ngati Porou Forests) Neil Woods (chief executive, Aratu Forests Limited). Andrew Gaddum (chief operating manager, Eastland Group Ltd) Dan Fraser (Gisborne Regional Manager, Forest Enterprises) Philip Hope (CEO, Eastland Wood Council) Neal Ebbett (Area manager – Gisborne ISO Limited).



Selwyn Parata (Kaumatua and director of Ngati Porou Forests)



Ian Brown (chair, Eastland Wood Council, managing director, Woodhill Consulting Ltd)



Bill Wheeler (regional manager, Ernslaw One)

Eastland Wood Council (EWC) Te Kaunihera Pororākau o Te Tairāwhiti is an incorporated society which provides a collective voice for the forestry industry in Tairāwhiti and for the benefit of Tairāwhiti.

Our philosophy: forestry is a vibrant, respected industry in Tairāwhiti.

Our strategic goals:

- Kaitiakitanga, care for the environment
- Haumarutanga, health and safety
- Whakawhanake, growing our people
- Te Huarahi, roads to market

This month we have provided some insights into the current economic climate and highlight the vital role transport represents for the forestry industry.

The EWC believes in the value of collaboration to improve the planning and delivery of important regional priorities which are vital to the local economy and the community.

Economic update

Forestry remains a very strong industry and it will remain a key driver of our economy. Like any commodity market, export prices fluctuate between peaks and valleys. This time the log market is impacted by the huge cost increase in shipping, supply chain disruptions due to Covid, increasing fuel costs and a temporary slowdown in construction in China, putting a significant squeeze on margins.

Right now we acknowledge the impact on some forestry workers is greater than others and we are employing a range of measures to support where possible. We will come out of this slump as in the past, the trees will have grown in value and production will be full steam ahead.

The forestry industry is a key driver of the economy in Tairāwhiti

Forestry represents the largest GDP by industry for our region (\$253 million) for year ending March 2019.

Forestry export revenues through Eastland Port totals \$438,808,547 for year ending March 2020.

East Coast and Hawkes Bay together supply and manufacture the second largest volume of sawn timber in New Zealand (493,436 cubic metres).

The forestry industry in Gisborne employed 1072 FTE's for the year ending March 2019 (the fourth largest employer by industry in Gisborne)

We also acknowledge the significant contribution the forestry industry makes to Trust Tairāwhiti and the community groups that exist because of this philanthropic income.

In the 12 months to March 2021, Eastland Port's share of 2021's dividend to Trust Tairāwhiti was \$4.4 million. This was 50 percent of the dividend distribution of \$8.8 million. There is another \$1.2 million distribution which is Eastland Ports capital note interest that is paid at Group level.



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Working together to get Mangatu moving again

Earlier this month a state of emergency was declared in Tairāwhiti after several days of persistent rain led to widespread flooding, road slips and dropouts across the rural network.

While the network of drains and culverts serving our country roads held up well, the equivalent of three months of rain falling within seven days was just too much in some places.

Of the 26 local roads affected, Armstrong Road (near Whatatutu) was one of the main casualties.

Armstrong Road suffered a significant dropout and lost a lane at the 2.5km route position, which caused instability and uncertainty for more than 80 people working for Waipaoa Station, Ernslaw One, PF Olsen Limited and Mangatu residents.

“This road is the only lifeline for the Mangatu area and it is critical for residents on the stations and our kaimahi who work in the bush,” said Billy Maaka, harvest operations manager for Ernslaw One.

“With the Tardale slip just around the corner, all of this country is susceptible to severe weather events like this.”

Gisborne District Council was alerted to the damage in the early hours of Saturday, November 6, and assessed the situation on-site at 7am.

Fortunately, the council had an approved contractor, Guy Coates, operating in the area, and, alongside Downer NZ, developed a plan to get Mangatu moving again.

To complete this work, the council closed the road to all vehicles for five days and an additional five days for heavy vehicles — no easy task when so many people depend on it.

Downer assisted the council by providing project management and stakeholder engagement.

Coates and his team worked tirelessly with Steve Petrowski, project manager at Downer, to deliver a quality job and ensure production could resume within Mangatu Forest, meeting their domestic and export commitments.

Donna McArthur, GDC journeys operations manager, was happy to see the success of this project as it involved so many people from the community, the forest industry, and the council contract workforce.

The key to success was communicating with farm and forestry workers. There were no surprises and the Eastland Wood Council is thankful for the patience shown by all involved.



On the road again.



Relationships creating success.

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