

Eastland Wood Council Members Values Environment Initiatives



Forestry for life

Cause for optimism as crews return to work

KIA ora koutou.

After a longer than usual summer break for many contractors and crews, most have recommenced operations.

With the slight lift in log prices, the smaller woodlot owners are restarting harvest operations and export volumes are increasing; there is cause for optimism.

We too accept potential impacts could arise as Covid rates increase in the community.

We acknowledge everyone for supporting each other and continuing to adhere to Covid guidelines.

Forestry harvest cutover inland from Ruatoria (Littleworths production forestry block) owned by Summit Forests, a member of Eastland Wood Council.

This month we look at EWC's role, introduce one of our board members, show case another success story from the Tairāwhiti Road Transport Programme and clarify EWC's position on permanent carbon farming.

Nga manaakitanga.

Philip Hope CEO

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CEO, Eastland Wood Council

Permanent carbon farming

EASTLAND Wood Council (EWC) members are primarily focused on production forestry that can be sustainably harvested.

EWC also acknowledges there are areas in Tairāwhiti that should be in permanent cover to combat soil erosion, reduce sediment loads and improve water quality.

However, permanent carbon farming should not occur at the expense

of sustainable production forestry, which is an efficient means of sequestering carbon while bringing important economic and social benefits to the region.

While the carbon-only market provides an opportunity to accelerate afforestation and helps reduce atmospheric carbon, it needs to be informed by defined conditions and should not replace productive land.



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Supporting the entire forestry industry

Eastland Wood Council, Te Kaunihera Pororākau Te Tairāwhiti, is an incorporated society that provides a collective voice for the forestry industry in Tairāwhiti.

Its members comprise forest owners, forest managers, harvesting and transport contractors, log export agents and infrastructure managers.

With such a broad membership, EWC is able to reflect, support, and advocate for the whole industry.

The EWC has a full-time chief executive, Philip Hope, and is governed by a board selected from the membership base.

They have been very focused on training and recruitment and have put in place the highly successful Generation Programme and Tairāwhiti Road

Transport Programme, which have recruited and trained 300 people over the last three years.

EWC members subscribe to a set of principles that manage the businesses, relationships and forests. Members represent more than 130,000 hectares of production forestry.

EWC collaborates to improve operational performance.

The key to continuous improvement are the working (focus) groups.

Forums lead specific discussion about health, safety and training, environmental initiatives, road maintenance and strategy.

These groups interact with external stakeholders to achieve optimal outcomes.

The EWC reviewed its three-year strategy towards the end of 2021. The

strategy guides the way EWC works and what they prioritise.

It has five main streams — care for the environment, health and safety, roads to market, growing our people and advocacy. During the review, EWC decided to strengthen the wellbeing part of health and safety and EWC's advocacy activities.

"With an active membership, a solid strategy and guiding principles, the Eastland Wood Council is well placed to represent the industry in Te Tairāwhiti," Ian Brown, EW chair, said.



Ian Brown
Chairman, EWC



Creating a benchmark for others in the sector

Neil Woods joined Aratu Forests as CEO in January 2021 after spending 12 years in Auckland managing the NZ Superannuation Fund's global Agriculture and Forestry portfolios.

Neil began his career in the industry as a forestry labourer in the central North Island in 1982.

After a few years and some good mentoring he enrolled at the University of Canterbury to study forestry science.

Post-university activities saw Neil in a variety of roles with Carter Holt Harvey, an international consulting firm with assignments in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

His experience with Tairāwhiti is limited to the establishment of a small area of carbon forestry on Pakihiroa Station, inland from Ruatoria, in 2006.

In addition to his role at Aratu Forests, Neil is deputy chair of the Eastern Wood Council, a board member on the Forest Growers Levy Trust and a director of Eastland Debarking Limited.

Aratu is a significant land and forest owner in the region and harvests around 700,000 tonnes annually from its 35,000 hectare land holding. It supplies the domestic and export market.

Aratu directly employs 27 staff who are responsible

for planning and coordinating the activities of several hundred workers in local forests, plus a five-person waste thinning crew.

The estate currently holds FSC and PEFC Environmental certification, providing an independent benchmark for forestry operations.

Aratu is owned by a group of offshore pension funds who have a long-term view of forestry as an investment.

This has allowed Aratu to explore other land-use options as part of its management approach, including the establishment of natives around sensitive areas, and consider species other than pine when re-establishing some harvested areas.



Neil Woods
CEO of Aratu Forests
EWC Vice Chairman

2019-2022 STRATEGIC PLAN

"Kotahi te kakano, he nu inga hua o te rakau. A tree comes from one seed but bears many fruit."

Our Kaupapa, Our Mission

Eastland Wood Council - Te Kaunihera Pororākau Te Tairāwhiti is an incorporated society which provides a collective voice for the forestry industry in Tairāwhiti.

Our Philosophy

Forestry is a vibrant, respected industry in Tairāwhiti.

Our Strategic Goals




Kaitiakitanga
Care for the Environment

Environmentally sustainable forestry through application of best practise.




Haumarutanga
Health & Safety

Improved health and safety outcomes, including wellbeing, through strong leadership.




Te Huarahi
Roads to Market

Continuing improvement of transportation infrastructure through positive engagement.



Whakawanake
Growing Our People

Skilled people retained and attracted through facilitation of forestry training and visible career pathways.



Taunakitanga
Advocacy

Building on positive industry image and social licence through improved awareness, developing strategic relationships and building trust.

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