



LOGIC
Forest Solutions Ltd



Ohiwa Forest Public Access Policy

Dated 9th July 2024

Business Details

Logic Forest Solutions Ltd.

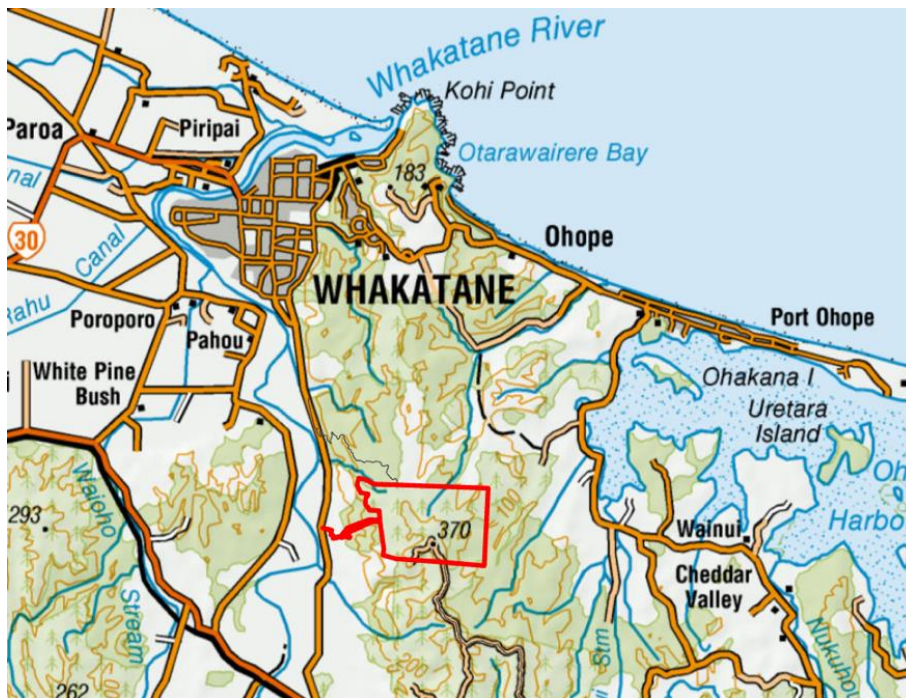
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Ohiwa Forest Management Unit Introduction

Land, Values, Operational Activity and Values Information Summary



NZTM Map Reference: 1 952 425 (mN) - 5 785 377 (mE)

Introduction

Ohiwa Forest is a plantation forest located in the Eastern Bay of Plenty, Whakatane District. The closest town is Whakatane, approximately 6km or a 8 minute drive by road.

Ohiwa Forest is a first rotation forest consisting of 234.9 ha of 1997 YOE (26-year-old) *P. radiata*.

The current Ohiwa Forest is surrounded to the East, North and South by existing Exotic Forest or Indigenous Forest. To the West is a Pastoral Farming operation managed by Ngati Awa Holdings Group Limited.

Across the Taneatua Road where the Whakatane River flats are dominated by local Dairy or small farm holdings.

Logic Forest Solutions Ltd (LogicFSL) has been engaged as Forest Manager by Ingka Investment Management NZ Limited, and Harvest Manager in the Ohiwa Forest.

Ingka Investment Management NZ Limited is a New Zealand Registered Company with its parent Company based in the Netherlands.

LogicFSL is a 100% New Zealand owned, Gisborne based forest management company providing a range of services to both small woodlot and corporate forest owners primarily in the East Coast region, and more broadly throughout New Zealand.

Ohiwa Forest Physical Characteristics.

The predominant Land Use is Production Forest, 240 Hectares with approximately 117 Hectares Indigenous Forest or Riparian areas.

The geography of Ohiwa Forest can be described as moderately broken, but generally rolling terrain, with short sharp slopes leading into incised gully systems. Small head gully catchments fall either in a Westerly direction, indirectly into the Ohiwa Harbour, or Easterly indirectly into the Whakatane River.

The Catchment has links to important Covenant areas of Ngati Awa and their lands. The forest is fortunate to have large areas of Native Forest protection areas, buffering these catchments.

Cultural values

Whakatāne River, Ohiwa Harbour and all streams, wetlands, swamps, and waterbodies (including drains) in their catchments are culturally significant to Ngāti Awa and its hapū.

Their important relationships with Whakatāne River, Ohiwa Harbour and their tributaries are statutorily acknowledged in the Ngāti Awa Claims Settlement Act 2005 and the Ngati Awa Deeds of Settlement with the Crown.

The river and harbour are important sources of food, provide transport routes, traditional art and craft resources, and resources for ritual uses still practiced today by the Ngati Awa community.

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa (the iwi authority and post-settlement governance entity) owns 1176ha to the west of Ohiwa Forest. Ngati Awa Farm is managed by Ngati Awa Group Holdings Limited and carries beef, sheep, and exotic forests. Ngati Awa set aside 113ha in covenanted (Kawenata) area reserved for nature and usefully provides respite space for kiwi and other species during forest harvest operations. The Kawenata is able to be used for specified land uses.

As an outcome of settlement, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa also holds rights of access to noho (camp) at Ohineteraraku Scenic Reserve, northwest of Ohiwa Forest.

These settlement outcomes attest to the longstanding and enduring occupation of the area by Ngati Awa people at various habitation sites across the landscape between Whakatāne River and Ohiwa Harbour and beyond, all of which is the homeland of the Ngāti Awa people.

Ngati Awa and their hapu continue to be actively involved in the management of Whakatāne River, Ohiwa Harbour, and Ohineteraraku Scenic Reserve today.

Hundreds of sites are recorded, and many more are not yet identified in the landscape, many of which extend into the Ohiwa Forest. Ohiwa Forest owners are committed to seeking further archaeological and cultural information to inform their forest management activities and public access decision-making.

The landowners plan to engage with Ngati Awa to assess and identify methods for the protection of significant sites, mitigation of forestry effects on waterbodies and other ancestral taonga and incorporate this into Forest Management Plans and landowner policy for minimising adverse impacts that can occur through the provision of Public Access.

Appreciation of the Cultural aspects within this forest are very important to the forest owners.

Biodiversity values

The Ohiwa Forest area contains Kiwi.

A Kiwi management plan for Ohiwa Forest is in place that outlines the actions that will be taken to conserve and recover kiwi in the forest prior to and during the harvesting planned in the forest block commencing November 2023. The plan has been developed by Logic Forest Solutions Ltd in consultation with the Whakatane Kiwi Trust and other stakeholders. There are also Weka and Ruru (Morepork) in large numbers and many songbirds.

Logic Forest Management commenced Stream Health Monitoring within the forest in November 2023.

An Ecologist has been engaged to undertake Assessments of potential reserve areas, develop plan, and implement and monitor restoration of these areas. Other biodiversity Programs could evolve from this information.

Operational Plans

The main Operational management objectives for the next five years are:

- Construction of roads and landings for the progressing harvest
- Continuation of log harvesting
- Replant
- Work in conjunction with Whakatāne Kiwi Trust in protecting and surveying Kiwi in the forest.
- Implementation of Cultural Assessment Recommendations into management plans.
- Work with Pest Control groups on control and eradication programs.
- Continue Ecological Management programs as developed.

Pest Management

Whakatāne Kiwi Trust Pest carry out Predator Control around and within the forest. Te Rungana o Ngati Awa (TRONP), as a neighbour, and Stakeholder carry out extensive Predator Control Programs and Logic Forest Solutions will work with them, and the Whakatane Kiwi Trust, on preparation of a Pest Management Plan.

The Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa's Korehāhā Whakahau project's objective is to remove possums from a 4,700ha area around Whākatane while creating jobs and building iwi capacity. Logic Forest Solutions are working with them on their needs involving the forest block.

The access policy for the Ohiwa Forest prior to consultation.

Due to trespass issues risking Health and Safety and theft, Hunting was closed to all but the Forest Owners and Managers Staff.

Recreational access (if any) was managed via Logic's permit access system and issued as required. We would also advise:

- No camping or fires to be permitted within the forest.
- No forest access will be issued in times of High Fire Risk.
- No forest access will be granted whilst forest operations are undertaken in the forest.
- No dogs allowed AT ALL within Ohiwa Forest

Access to the forest was only via a road owned by a neighbour and strict use guidelines are in place for this access.

Ohiwa Forest Public Access Policy 2024-2026

Dated 9th July 2024 Review Date 8th July 2025

Following extensive consultation with Stakeholders throughout the district Logic Forest Solutions as the Forest Manager on behalf of Ingka Investments New Zealand Ltd determine that the Public Access to Ohiwa Forest will be as follows.

Given the high activity period the forest is currently in it would be difficult to allow Public Access at this stage.

There are obvious concerns and risk associated with the active forest operations.

There are concerns around risks to the Biodiversity operations.

There are concerns from neighbouring landowners around increasing access through their properties as the forest is essentially landlocked aside from an unsafe track.

Given all those factors it is unreasonable to attempt any public access at this stage.

The current access conditions will remain in place, and changes will progress as per the timeline below.

It would, however, be reasonable to initiate discussions with those in favour of public access to receive their more detailed initial proposals and work with them on refining them with a view towards potential implementation when the forest activities scale down.

During that we will also communicate with parties less favourable to public access on how any future plans may evolve and impacts, if any, on them.

Logic FSL envisage the following broad timeline towards a more open access policy which will suit the owners aspirations for forest ownership..

2024 Winter – 2025 Winter; There will be no change to public access while Roadline Clearance and Road Construction operations continue.

2024 Spring; Discuss with parties in favour of Public Access (notably Mountain Bike Interests and Whakatane District Council) how their proposal will work in practicality in the forest. Including timelines, and measures to mitigate concerns and risk highlighted by other in this consultation.

2025 Winter – end of harvest operations; refine any practical plans for access with formal parties, and smaller groups, for a potential change in access arrangements when forest operations taper off.

The first review of this access policy will take place by July 8th 2025

For all communications on this access policy or other issues around Ohiwa Forest please email office@logicfsl.co.nz