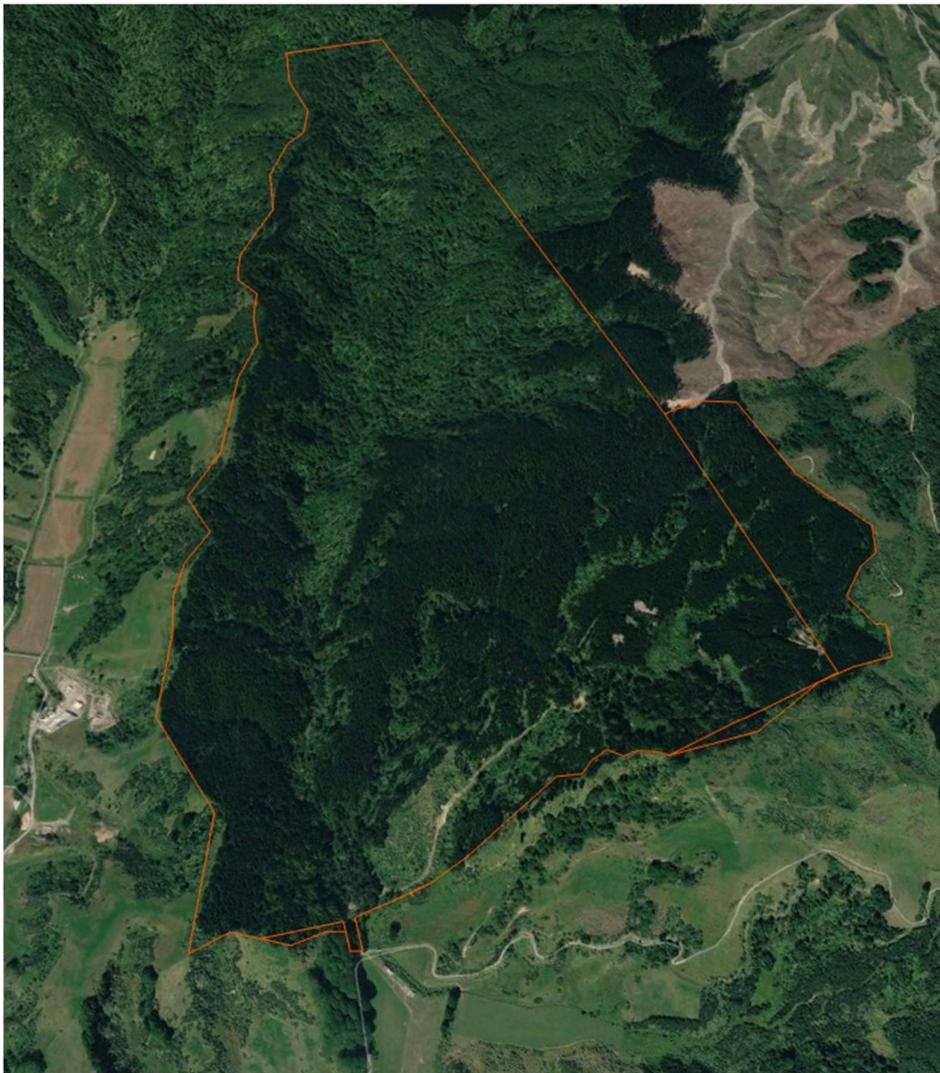




**LOGIC**  
Forest Solutions Ltd



# Rawhiti Forest Public Access Policy



**March 2026**

# Land, Values, Operational Activity and Values Information Summary

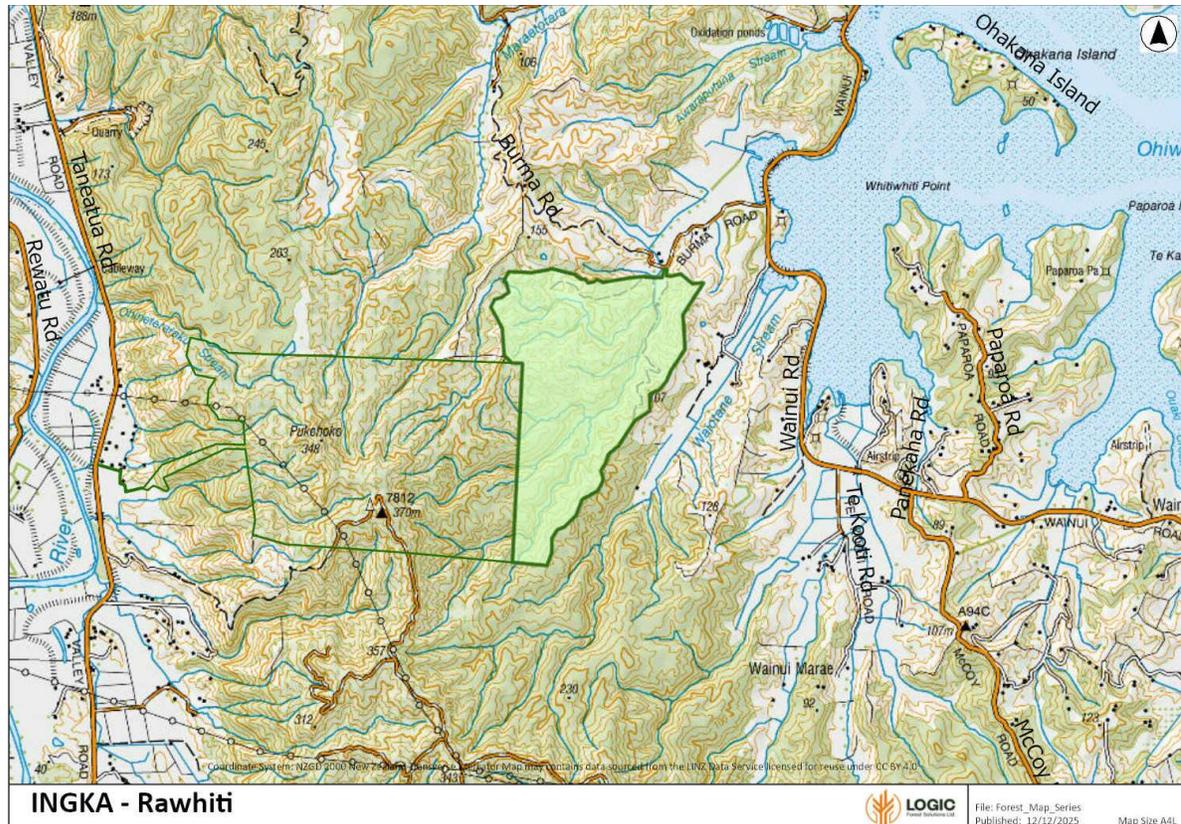


Figure 1 Rawhiti Forest Location

Note the Rawhiti Forest is directly adjacent to the Ohiwa Forest also owned by Ingka Investment NZ Ltd.

## Introduction

Rawhiti 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.

Rawhiti Forest is a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> rotation forest.

The current Rawhiti Forest is surrounded to the West, and South by existing Exotic Forest or Indigenous Forest. To the East and North is a Pastoral Farming operation.

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

## **Rawhiti Forest Physical Characteristics.**

The predominant Land Use is Production Forest, and significant Indigenous Forest or Riparian areas.

Rawhiti Forest is approximately 219.1 hectares, at 700 Burma Road Whakatane

The main access is from Burma Road, off Wainui Road. The Property is 5 km from Ohope. The Property shares its western boundary with another Ingka property, Ohiwa Forest.

The Property currently contains exotic and native forestry, and no farmland. A portion of the Property is planted in approximately 68.2 hectares of Pinus radiata with a range of age classes from 1994 to 2020. 2.42 hectares of the Pinus radiata is cutover. The rest of the Net Stocked Area is planted in approximately 20 hectares of Lusitanica. The total Net Stocked Area is approximately 88 hectares. The remainder of the Property consists of mature regenerated native vegetation.

The geography of Rawhiti 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 Northerly direction, indirectly into the Ohiwa Harbour.

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**

Ohiwa Harbour and all streams, wetlands, swamps, and waterbodies (including drains) in their catchments are culturally significant to Ngāti Awa, Ngati Hokopu, Te Upokorehe 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.

Ngāti Awa, Ngati Hokopu, Te Upokorehe and its hapū continue to be actively involved in the management of Whakatāne River, Ohiwa Harbour, and Waitotane Scenic Reserve today.

Rawhiti Forest owners have sought further archaeological and cultural information to inform their forest management activities and public access decision-making.

An Assessment and subsequent field survey was carried out in September 2025 by InSitu Heritage to relocate and mark existing sites and investigate potential sites.

Appreciation of the Cultural aspects within this forest are very important to the forest owners and better protection of these sites is a goal of ownership.

The landowners are engaging with Ngāti Awa, Ngati Hokopu, Te Upokorehe 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.

## **Biodiversity values**

The Rawhiti Forest area contains Kiwi.

Logic Forest Management commenced **Stream Health Monitoring** within the forest in October 2025.

An Ecologist has been engaged to undertake field Assessments of the forest, potential reserve areas, develop plans, 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 in the nearby Ohiwa Forest.

### **Pest Management**

Whakatāne Kiwi Trust Pest carry out Predator Control adjacent to the forest in Ohiwa Forest. The forest owner will look to extent operations into Rawhiti Forest.

### **Hunting**

Recreational (if any) hunting is being 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 Rawhiti Forest

Currently, due to trespass issues risking Health and Safety and theft, Hunting is closed to all but the Forest Owners and Managers Staff.

### **Recreational Use**

Ingka Investments NZ Ltd and Logic Forest Solutions are in discussion with Whakatane District Council and parties into access of the Rawhiti and Ohiwa Forests for recreational purposes.

## Health and Safety Factors to consider

The forest is about to enter a high activity operational; phase with the following activities taking place;

- Roadline clearance,
- Road Construction,
- Metal Cartage,
- Harvest Operations
- Log Cartage
- Pest Control
- Biodiversity Monitoring
- Management, Compliance, and Supervision activities

There are multiple parties responsible for safety of workers and operations within the forest and a very detailed Safety Plan and PCBU<sup>1</sup> Agreement is in place and maintained as matter arise.

All PCBUs have a duty of care to their workers and Logic Forest Solutions have an overriding duty of care to all persons who access and use the (worksite) forest to provide a safe work environment to our contractors (who then have a duty of care to their employees).

This cannot be done effectively when Public Access may interact with operations.

There is currently unauthorised access occurring with hunting and while this is prevalent there is a risk to workers, biodiversity staff, and equipment which could lead to harm and loss to authorised forest users.

## Cultural Factors to consider

Local Iwi Ngati Awa, Ngati Hokopu and Te Upokorehe have Cultural Values in the forest and physical sites that must be considered.

Opening up the site to public carries threats and opportunities to the cultural values.

## Biodiversity Responsibilities

Logic Forest Solutions have arrangements with Biodiversity groups on management Strategies. At present public access could represent a risk to the success of these operations and must be considered.

## Recreational User Groups and District Council Interest

There is overwhelming interest of recreational user groups such as Mountain-biking and walking to have an accessible park near Whakatane and Ohope.

Whakatane District Council have supported these groups in this vision, and talks have begun with these groups, the Forest Owner (Ingka Investment Management NZ Ltd) and the Forest Manager on making the site (and the neighbouring Ohiwa Forest), available for Recreational use.

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<sup>1</sup> PCBU is defined as a Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking  
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## Forest Owner Aspirations

Ingka Investments NZ Ltd have clear aspirations of land ownership which involves public access and will work with Logic Forest Solutions and the public to enable, where practical, at the right time, and satisfying the risk factors mentioned in this summary. There is a willingness for a well-structured access policy to be supported by the Forest Owner.

## The current access policy for Rawhiti Forest.

Currently due to trespass issues risking Health and Safety and theft, access was closed to all but the Forest Owners, Contractors, and Managers Staff.

Recreational access is being 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.
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## 2026 Affected Party Questionnaire and Submission.

In March 2026 Logic Forest Solutions consulted on potential public access options for the Rawhiti Forest block.

Logic Forest Solutions are the Forest Manager on behalf of Ingka Investments New Zealand Ltd.

The survey gathered information on the interest in public access to the forest, and the factors that parties value or are aware of existing in the forest.

Information was also gathered on how public access could impact or enhance these values.

## Outcome for Public Access, following consultation.

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

There are obvious concerns and risk associated with the active forest operations. There are concerns around risks to the biodiversity operations.

Local Iwi Ngati Awa, Ngati Hokopu and Te Upokorehe have Cultural Values in the forest and physical sites that must be considered.

Given all those factors it is unreasonable to attempt **full public access** to **all parts** of the forest at this stage.

It is however reasonable to continue discussions with those in favour of public access to receive their more detailed proposals and work with them on refining them with a view towards potential implementation when the forest activities scale down and other parts of the forest become available for safe access.

Development of a mixed use recreational park have proposed a zone-based approach to access. This would be supported as areas become operational, or post-operation.

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

Logic FSL envisage the following broad timeline towards stakeholder goals.

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*All to be confirmed with LFSL Operations, the Forest Owner, Key Stakeholders.*

**2026 Late summer - Autumn continue** discussions on a staged access approach to public access and development of a multiuse track system with stakeholders.

Prepare a Zone map which reflects areas of forest activity and clear separation from recreational zones.

Activate recreational zones once all parties have;

- Agreed a permit or access instrument to work under
- Established a sound rule set on behaviours respecting all values of the forest
- Investigated educational opportunities from the greater access
- Sought funding for improvements and maintenance.
- Declared them safe

**2026 Autumn – 2026 Spring;**

Road Construction and Harvest of mature trees near Ohiwa Forest boundary.

There will be no public access for that area during operations.

**2026 Spring;** potential commencing of any agreed recreational use subject to physical availability, confirmed access agreements, and key stakeholder approval.

## **Next Review**

LFSL will review Public Access again in March 2027 however evolution of the community plan will continue as above in the meantime.

Richard Heikell  
**Forest Planning Manager**  
**Logic Forest Solutions Ltd.**