



National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry

The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) is the main piece of legislation that sets out how the land is to be managed. The *National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry* (NES-PF) are the regulations made under this legislation that apply to any forest of at least one hectare that has been planted specifically for commercial purposes and is to be harvested. The NES-PF supersedes almost all district council plan provisions, and many of those of regional council plans, except in specific situations where the NES-PF allows councils to apply more stringent rules.

The intent of the regulations is to better protect the land and environment and to apply consistent environmental standards across the country while improving the productivity of the forestry sector and reducing operational costs. Councils previously managed the environmental effects of forestry activities through regional and district plans.

MPI has developed guidance to support implementation of the NES-PF. The guidance is targeted at regional councils, territorial authorities, and the forestry industry as the primary users of the NES-PF. The Guide is a useful tool to help interpret the rules.

[Resource Management \(National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry\) Regulations 2017](#)

[Resource Management \(National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry\) Regulations 2017 - User Guide](#)

Management plans

The NES-PF requires a management plan to be prepared for almost all forestry earthworks and quarry activities, and all harvesting. The NES-PF regulations require that some of these will need to be submitted to regional councils or unitary authorities, however councils may specify whether or not they wish to have the management plans submitted.

Management plans need to clearly identify any environmental risks and specify how the activity will be carried out in compliance with the regulations. Management plans are meant to strike the balance between certainty for councils around what needs to be included in the plan, with some operational flexibility for foresters on how this will be carried out. Management plan content is expected to be proportional to the complexity of the operation and risks of the site. The plan should strike a sensible balance between the amount of detail on risk and practice identification and the cost of plan preparation.

References

NES-PF

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/forestry/national-environmental-standards-plantation-forestry/>

New Zealand Environmental Code of Practice for Plantation Forestry

<https://www.nzfoa.org.nz/resources/file-libraries-resources/codes-of-practice/44-environmental-code-of-practice/file>