

WELCOME

It's that time again – the sawmill registration year runs from 1 July through to 30 June each year. At the moment there are 157 registered sawmills. Make sure you are registered by the end of June.

MILLING INDIGENOUS TIMBER FOR CULTURAL USE

Indigenous timber milled for cultural use must still comply with the Forests Act. If indigenous timber is carved directly from roundwood with no milling or flitching whatsoever, no milling statement would be required.

A milling statement can be obtained for Indigenous timber that has died of natural causes or is from windthrown trees. Iwi groups sourcing indigenous timber from land they own will often qualify for a Personal Use approval. Under the Conservation Act indigenous timber from public conservation land can sometimes be gifted to iwi for cultural use, but this timber still requires Forests Act approval prior to milling.

Safety Review

An Independent Forestry Safety Review Panel has been set up to investigate the high number of deaths in the industry.

Consultation is open for submissions and the review panel is also holding public meetings over the coming weeks. For more information go to <http://www.ifsr.co.nz/>

Swamp Kauri

There has been a fair bit of media interest in the extraction of swamp kauri recently so it seemed a good time to re-iterate MPI's role in the swamp kauri industry.

The **extraction** of swamp kauri and the requirement to ensure such extraction occurs in a sustainable manner is administered under the Resource Management Act by Local Authorities. However, the **milling** of swamp kauri is regulated by MPI where it falls into the category of salvaged timber under the Forests Act. The only restriction is that it is prohibited to mill indigenous timber sourced from indigenous forest land, which includes indigenous wetlands.

The **export** of swamp kauri is also regulated by MPI under the Forests Act. The Act states that the export of

indigenous timber is prohibited unless it is:

- » a finished product or a component of a finished product; or
- » a personal effect; or
- » from stump or root material (stump and root has a prescriptive definition in the Forests Act).

Provided an application meets the requirements of the Forests Act 1949 there is no legitimate reason for MPI to prevent the approved export of swamp kauri. More information on the regulatory regime that governs the export and milling of swamp kauri, including the definition of stump and root material, can be obtained from our factsheet *Milling and Exporting Swamp Kauri*, <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/Default.aspx?TabId=126&id=2021>

Swamp kauri.



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Cyclone Ita hits the West Coast

On the 17th of April, Cyclone Ita struck the West Coast of the South Island. Strong sustained winds with gusts reported as exceeding 200kph in some areas caused widespread damage across West Coast public and private forests. Although much of the West Coast suffered damage, particularly hard hit were Franz Josef, Whataroa and Harihari in South Westland and Karamea in the north. Both indigenous and plantation forests were affected.

Reports indicate around 1250 hectares of radiata pine – the equivalent of an annual cut – were lost on the Crown forest estate. Trees were aged from 13 to 31 years old and forest manager PF Olsen hopes to salvage about 50 percent over the coming year. Also suffering serious damage were private exotic woodlots from the Buller down to South Westland.

Large areas of native forest were flattened; predominantly beech/podocarp forest around Karamea and podocarp/hardwood forest and scattered totara from Kumara through to South Westland. While there is reasonable demand for rimu and matai, finding a market for kahikatea and some of the South Westland totara with poorer form, may prove more difficult.

While timber should keep for the winter months, deterioration, particularly of sapwood, may commence once spring sets in. Trees with rootplates intact will last longer as will trees with a high heartwood content which can keep for many years. Wind damaged trees are stressed and likely to be more susceptible to disease and insect attack; there is potential for pinhole borer (*Platypus* sp.) outbreaks in larger areas of blowdown in beech forest.

Many landowners are still dealing with the

clean-up operation and this will take time especially with safety issues relating to the recovery of trees. Stresses and tensions in windthrown trees make them highly unpredictable to work with.

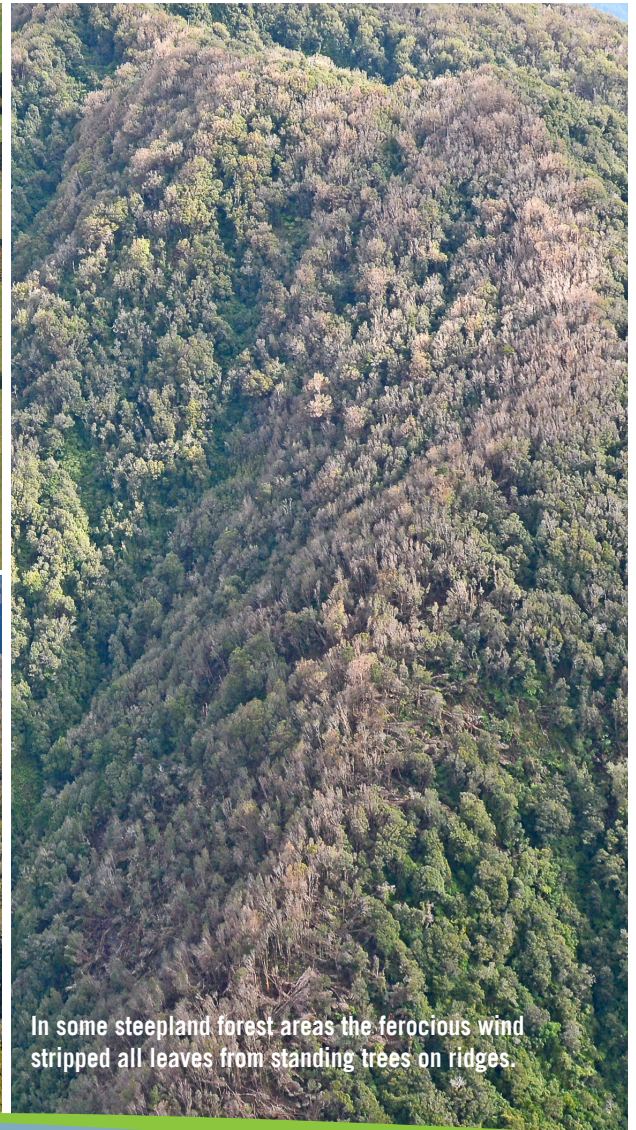
Milling Statements give approval for native timber to be milled in a one-off circumstance, one of which is windthrow. Since the wind event, MPI has seen an increase in applications for Milling Statements on the West Coast along with several new sawmill registrations. To date, Milling Statements have been issued for some 850m³ of indigenous timber relating to the wind event with the majority of this being rimu, kahikatea and matai.

If you have any questions regarding milling windthrown timber or are in contact with landowners needing assistance, please contact the MPI Christchurch office.

A remnant totara woodlot on the Whataroa floodplain.



Residual pockets of emergent rimu within large areas of windthrown hard beech forest in Karamea.



In some steep forest areas the ferocious wind stripped all leaves from standing trees on ridges.