



TE MAHI NGAHERE I TE AO HURIHURI – FORESTRY WORK IN THE MODERN AGE

The Forest Growers Research programme Te Mahi Ngahere i te Ao Hurihuri – Forestry Work in the Modern Age commenced on 1 January 2019. The programme outlines a pathway for the New Zealand forest industry to develop innovative harvesting technologies in forestry automation and robotics. Goals of the programme are to address labour shortages, reduce forestry value chain costs, improve economic viability of harvesting small forests and enhance long term sustainability through reducing environmental impact and making harvesting jobs safer for workers. The programme is in its initial stages of development. The Programme Governance Group had its fourth meeting in early May 2020 and work has been focussing on early stage activities such as engagement with forest management companies, promotion of the programme, and establishing project teams and work plans.

Summary of progress during this quarter

The main achievements in this programme during the period 1 January to 31 March 2020 have been:

- Project leaders and project teams established for all early stage projects
- Work Plans have been completed for all early stage projects.
- Services Agreements signed with manufacturing partners for two early stage projects

Key highlights and achievements

The programme Te Mahi Ngahere i te Ao Hurihuri – Forestry Work in the Modern Age, like most business initiatives in New Zealand has been impacted by the COVID-19 business shutdown. The forecast restart and recovery will affect the ability of progress to be made in the programme over the last Quarter of 2019/20. The programme is still supported by innovative engineering firms, forestry companies and contractors throughout New Zealand, however engagement over the last few months has been difficult. It is hoped that the momentum achieved in forestry mechanisation, remote control and teleoperation technology achieved with the earlier Steepland Harvesting PGP programme will be able to be regained to enable introduction of automation and robotics into the New Zealand forest industry over the next few years.

The goal is, by 2030 over 20% of all forest harvesting operations will be fully automated, using products developed in this programme, to achieve the vision of “No boots on the ground, no hands on the log”. Cumulative sector wide benefits will exceed \$395 million by 2030.

<i>Investment \$m</i> <i>Investment period</i>	<i>Industry</i> <i>contribution</i>	<i>MPI</i> <i>contribution</i>	<i>Total</i> <i>investment</i>
<i>For the Quarter</i>	\$0.231	\$0.154	\$0.385
<i>Year to date</i>	\$1.070	\$0.714	\$1.784
<i>Programme to date</i>	\$1.231	\$0.821	\$2.052