

2025 Work Programme



CONTENTS

Forest Growers Levy Trust Budget	3
Operational (\$431,000)	4
Integral and database maintenance (\$265,000)	4
Integral Software Amortisation (\$0)	4
Business Compliance and Reporting (\$166,000)	4
Secretariat Costs (\$95,000)	5
Programme Management Costs (\$1,967,500)	5
FGLT Priority Area Allocations	6
Work Programme Costs (\$8,268,500)	7
Fire (\$24,000)	7
Forest Biosecurity (\$988,000)	8
Environment (\$292,000)	12
Health and Safety (\$728,000)	15
Promotions (\$1,148,000)	17
Research, Science & Technology (\$4,807,500)	21
Small & Medium Enterprise (\$104,000)	29
Training & Careers (\$81,000)	31
Transportation & Logistics (\$96,000)	33

Forest Growers Levy Trust Budget

Forest Growers Levy Trust Budget Year Ended 31 December

	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Budget
Income			
Commodity Levies	10,239,397	10,401,614	9,500,000
Interest Income	54,904	82,804	60,000
Total Income	10,294,301	10,484,418	9,560,000
Expenses			
Operational & Administration			
Administration Costs		254,367	284,000
Overhead Costs		345,396	402,000
Programme Delivery		1,243,595	1,281,500
	1,732,911	1,843,358	1,967,500
Business Compliance & Reporting	185,054	144,006	166,000
Levy Collection	241,586	251,733	265,000
Secretariat	95,000	95,000	95,000
	2,254,551	2,334,097	2,493,500
Board Support & Additional Projects	-	131,584	-
Levy Referendum	-	205,191	-
	-	336,775	-
Work Programme			
NEFD	-	44,000	-
Environment	268,620	250,654	292,000
Fire	14,677	7,300	24,000
Biosecurity	1,051,369	918,964	988,000
Health & Safety	767,174	728,000	728,000
Promotions	662,663	632,682	1,148,000
Research	5,365,254	4,454,389	4,807,500
Transport	123,458	86,025	96,000
SME	125,427	83,279	104,000
Training & Careers	460,596	231,230	81,000
	8,839,238	7,436,523	8,268,500
Total Expenses	11,093,789	10,107,395	10,762,000
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(799,488)	377,023	(1,202,000)
Income Tax on Interest Income	-	22,905	16,500
Unallocated Funding Provision (CEO)	-	-	100,000
Advocacy & Member Database Provision	-	-	300,000
Net Surplus/(Deficit) after Provisions	(799,488)	354,118	(1,618,500)
Total Reserves at 31 December	\$2,923,239	\$3,277,357	\$1,658,857

Operational (\$431,000)

Integral and database maintenance (\$265,000)

Integral set up an independent company "Levy Systems Limited" (LSL) to operate the Harvested Wood Material (HWM) Commodity Levy data and levy collection system. This separate company ensures individual company data is kept confidential and secure.

LSL is responsible for collecting data on harvested wood products and invoicing the owner of these products. The levy is paid by forest owners directly into the Forest Grower Levy Trust bank account.

Funding for 2025 covers the operation of LSL and the funding of minor enhancements to the collection systems.

Integral Software Amortisation (\$0)

Covers amortisation of software used by LSL to upload data and invoice levy payers. The original software programme that commenced 1 January 2014 has been fully amortised. This expense remains here for when enhancements are required in the future.

Business Compliance and Reporting (\$166,000)

Covers the cost of the Levy Trust administration including bank fees, legal, Xero accounting subscription, audit fee, business advisory, board and secretariat travel, chair, compliance audits, AGM and other meetings and an associated communications programme.

This expenditure consists of:

Chairman's fee and other Board costs	47,000
Legal expenses, including legal support for the Work Programme	10,000
Audit fee, accounting, and tax advice	21,500
Communications - General	10,500
- Board Elections	22,000
Other (bank fees, communications, insurance, website)	15,500
Compliance audit	26,000
Board Election costs	<u>13,500</u>
	<u>\$166,000</u>

Secretariat Costs (\$95,000)

FOA provides a secretariat service to the Levy Trust Board. The Chief Executive of FOA currently serves as the Chief Executive for the FGLT, answerable to the Trust Board for that function, not to FOA. The secretariat has a responsibility for liaising between the Trust and the two associations (FOA and NZFFA) who are delivering the levy-funded work programme including tabling the annual work programme and regular reports, as well as oversight of the levy collection process, constitutional matters, financial arrangements and accounting, legal and tax compliance.

Programme Management Costs (\$1,967,500)

Administration costs	284,000
Overhead costs	402,000
Programme Delivery	<u>1,281,500</u>
	<u>\$1,967,500</u>

Changes to Programme Management Costs: these are reviewed each year and adjusted to account for any new resources and/or circumstances to comprise 80% of total costs. The remaining 20% is attributable to either FOA or secretariat activities.

The management costs include FOA resources and are broken down as follows:

FOA Staffing

Approximately 11 FTEs based in Wellington, Rotorua, Christchurch and Hamilton are managing the Levy Trust approved programme of work in collaboration with the FOA/NZFFA membership committees, communicating with forest growers and the wider industry and coordinating efforts with the Farm Forestry Association. This includes the management of research and development (R&D) activity.

Phones

Stationery and Printing

General

Depreciation and other

R & M premises and equipment

IT costs, meeting and storage costs and office maintenance

Occupancy

Includes portion of office rental, power, cleaning services, office consumables

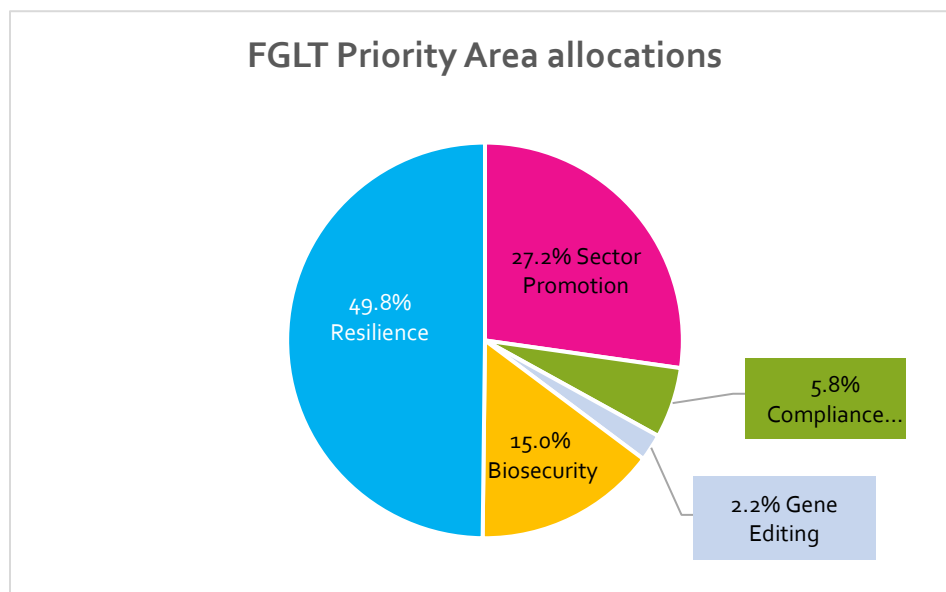
Travel and meetings

Catering for committees, flights, accommodation, rental vehicles, workshops, stakeholders' meetings, expert/contractors travel when required, venue charges

International travel

Includes a provision for engagement with International Council of Forest and Paper Association and FAO Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest and with the Australian industry (AFPA).

FGLT Priority Area Allocations



FGLT Priority Area allocations		
	\$	%
Sector Promotion	\$2,252,450	27.2%
Compliance & Regulation	\$478,150	5.8%
Gene Editing	\$182,500	2.2%
Biosecurity	\$1,237,000	15.0%
Resilience	\$4,118,400	49.8%
Total	\$8,268,500	100.0%

Priority Area Descriptions:

1. Industry promotion and advocacy (representation of forest grower interests) reducing the risk from ill-informed criticism and improving forestry's reputation and trust;
2. Identifying and reducing wasteful compliance and unjustified regulatory burden – including improving resource management law;
3. Encouraging early up-take of gene editing opportunities;
4. Maintaining and enhancing biosecurity; and
5. Advancing industry resilience, including initiatives to improve forestry preparedness to adapt to adverse climate, market and other changes.

Work Programme Costs (\$8,268,500)

Fire (\$24,000)

Projects within the portfolio allocation	2025 Funding Approved
Forest sector fire communications plan This project will develop a forest sector communications plan focused on promoting good fire behaviour, creating and sharing proactive sector-focused fire related stories and increasing the sector's ability to respond to negative or misleading media coverage.	\$14,000
Fire capability project There is a need to understand the current state of the sector's firefighting capability and capacity to allow for improvements in planning and resource development decisions nationally and regionally. This project will undertake a national and regional stocktake of the sector's current firefighting capability and capacity, including the relevant qualifications. This will provide data to show the role the sector can and does play in fire risk management.	\$5,000
Aircraft use survey This project will repeat a previous survey undertaken to understand the use of aircraft by the sector, the operational oversight capability within the sector and changes to this over time. This will enable the sector to better communicate its capability to manage aircraft across a range of emergency and operational events, including emergency fire and biosecurity responses. The survey will also identify capability development needs across the sector.	\$5,000
Total for projects ranked within pre-approved portfolio allocation.	\$24,000

Forest Biosecurity (\$988,000)

Projects within the portfolio allocation

 2025
 Funding
 Approved

Forest Biosecurity Surveillance (FBS) – field surveillance

\$358,900

An ongoing, annual risk-based biosecurity surveillance for pests and pathogens of plantation forest species. The field work, as a component of the Forest Biosecurity Surveillance (FBS) programme, is undertaken for the forest industry by SPS Biota. The objectives of the FBS programme are to contribute to the protection the forest estate through early detection of new-to-New Zealand and new-to-region pest incursions (insects and pathogens). This surveillance work is essential for helping protect trade from the potential negative impacts of any new incursions and for enabling market access and trade by providing an evidence base of pest or pathogen absence from New Zealand or specific regions or areas.

Costs for the FBS field surveillance and associated diagnostics activities are currently cost-shared 50/50 with Biosecurity New Zealand (BNZ).

Forest Biosecurity Surveillance (FBS) – diagnostics

\$253,000

The diagnostics work is undertaken for the forest industry by Crown Research Institute (CRI), Scion. The objectives of the forest biosecurity surveillance system, which comprises FBS, the Non-Model Allocated Surveillance programme (NMA) and the Forest Health Assessments (FHA), are to contribute to the protection the forest estate through early detection of new-to-New Zealand and new-to-region pest incursions (insects and pathogens), to protect trade from the potential negative impacts of any new incursions, and to enable market access and trade by providing an evidence base of pest or pathogen absence from New Zealand or specific regions or areas.

Costs for the FBS diagnostics are apportioned at approximate 1/3 each across the FBS, NMA programme and the FHA activities with BNZ, cost sharing 50% of the FBS component costs. The remaining costs are covered by the FGLT.

Forest Biosecurity Surveillance (FBS) programme – Non-Model Allocation (NMA)

\$180,100

The “non-model allocation” (NMA) surveillance is a component of the wider forest biosecurity surveillance system. It is not currently cost-shared with BNZ under the Government Industry Agreement (GIA). The NMA is largely peri-urban and in-forest site surveillance that extends to include high-risk forest areas and risk pathways based on risk profiling developed by SPS Biota. This risk-based approach identifies where to focus surveillance effort within forests surrounding high risk areas. The system targets sites with high visitor numbers, high industrial activity, or proximity to major transport routes. NMA addresses some of the acknowledged shortcomings of the FBS and enhances the surveillance system by increasing the probability that new pests and pathogens will be detected early enough for eradication or containment to still be an option. The programme is also looking at alternative approaches to improve early detection, including

trapping, remote sensing etc. and provides a platform for piloting, de-risking, operationalising and implementing new surveillance approaches.

GIA secretariat cost share

\$45,000

The GIA Secretariat is now funded by all GIA signatories, including MPI and industry. This funding is for core GIA Secretariat services only and is in the form of a minimum club share that all signatories pay with remaining costs shared across all signatories proportionally by industry value. Any user pays services (i.e., supporting or administering industry-specific initiatives or operational agreements) are paid separately by users under the relevant Operational Agreement (OA) utilising those services.

Lepidoptera readiness and response contingency planning

\$20,000

In 2021, several GIA partners agreed to collaborate on progressing improvements to the state of general biosecurity response readiness for Lepidoptera incursions. The initial focus was on understanding the baseline state of readiness to inform a readiness workplan to be delivered under a multisector Operational Agreement under the GIA Deed. The FOA, on behalf of the forest growing sector, signed the OA in March 2023. This funding represents the forest growing sector's cost share/commitment toward the Lepidoptera OA work programme budget of \$130k that aims to progress New Zealand's state of Lepidoptera readiness.

Plant Pass OA commitment

\$12,000

Plant Pass is a biosecurity best practice certification and assurance framework for nurseries. It supports a professional approach to biosecurity across the plant production industry and aims to minimise biosecurity risk within practical operational constraints, build industry and producer resilience, trust and social licence. It also aims to harness the critical skills and observations that exist in the industry to protect and grow producers, their customers and ultimately New Zealand. The nursery pathway is a potential high-risk mechanism for the rapid spread of forest pathogens into production forests should they enter the nursery system. Plant Pass provides a solution to forest nurseries and forest owners to better manage biosecurity risks on this pathway and obtain independent assurance risks are being managed to best practice standards and reducing the risks to forest owners. Plant Pass has been implemented as a five-year multisector Operational Agreement under GIA to which the forest growing industry is a signatory alongside other industries and MPI and as such will contribute a forest industry cost share.

Forest biosecurity awareness and communications programme

\$25,000

This project comprises a range of communications and sector engagement initiatives aimed at promoting and supporting good biosecurity practices and raising awareness at both an industry and external level of the risks posed to the planted forest estate. It includes:

- Maintaining Pine Net
- Delivery of Forest Biosecurity News
- The Forest Biosecurity Conference
- Biosecurity fact sheet and biosecurity guidance development and distribution
- Biosecurity training
- Find-A-Pest reporting app support.
- Tauranga Moana Biosecurity Capital sponsorship

It also encompasses other awareness raising and engagement activities that might arise that add value and benefit to the biosecurity outcomes sought by the forest growing sector.

Forest biosecurity consultant

\$20,000

Funding for regular monthly time allocation for the forest growing sector to provide forest biosecurity technical support and advice, including the Forest Biosecurity Surveillance Programme, a cost-shared national programme with MPI. Time is allocated for work on biosecurity matters for FBC, GIA, liaison with Scion and SPS Biota and other biosecurity system participants on the diagnostics and surveillance programme including reporting, governance, technical working groups, biosecurity research and other tasks as required.

Forest biosecurity training workshops

\$7,500

Good biosecurity practices in forests play an important role in reducing the spread of pests and pathogens. This project will provide two face-to-face biosecurity training workshops for forestry operations managers from a variety of organisations. Workshops will cover biosecurity case studies and include an introduction to current biosecurity protocols – what to report and how to report it – in a format which can then be used to initiate organisation-specific training sessions for operational staff at their sites. Increased awareness of biosecurity and how to report anything unusual in our forests will increase the chances of detecting new pests and diseases early, increasing the chances of eradication and/or effective control.

Better Border Biosecurity (B3)

\$5,000

The forest industry's contribution toward the leadership and governance of the Better Border Biosecurity (B3) programme. The industry is able to influence, participate in and benefit from the plant biosecurity-focused research delivered under B3. This contribution is to ensure that B3 maintains its independent Chair and Executive Director roles which have been instrumental to its ongoing success as a collaborative research initiative and keeping it largely independent from any one entities' priorities. The forest industry has supported B3 for well over a decade and has been on the B3 governance/leadership group over this period.

DNA barcode curation for proactive forest-pest surveillance

\$19,500

Over 430,000 passengers arrived by air at New Zealand borders in June 2024; each representing a small degree of risk to accidental introduction or dispersal of various pests that could have large impacts on our forestry sector. With the approach of eDNA as a surveillance method well validated, it is fitting to address the issue of how specific and effective pest surveillance for our exotic and native forestry systems could be. Online repositories have collated numerous DNA barcodes for organisms classified as high-risk. This project intends to compile a gold standard dataset of currently available DNA barcodes of high-risk species for the forestry sector, with the aim of implementing a watchlist for surveillance of these organisms in eDNA surveillance data. In addition and in collaboration with Wilderlab, we propose to look at the gene region targeted in their eDNA panel and assess its biological specificity for primary forest industry pests.

Beetle trapping for early detection of invasive forestry pests

40,000

Bark and wood boring beetles and other insects present significant risk to production forestry.

Trade and climate change increase the likelihood of unwanted forestry pests arriving from overseas and establishing here in New Zealand. Early detection of unwanted pests is critical for eradication. Additional tools for early detection of unwanted forestry pests are needed.

This project aims to continue the trapping programme to detect unwanted bark and wood boring beetle species previously funded by the FGLT (NMA). Trapping locations are chosen based on their level of risk, including proximity to population centres, production forests and accessibility. The traps consist of a flight trap with two lures attached. The bark and wood boring beetle species collected will be identified under a stereomicroscope. All data on trapping locations and species collected will be available in an online results dashboard.

Travel and accommodation
\$2,000

Costs for Committee members to attend meetings. Subject to approval by Committee Chair.

Total for projects ranked within pre-approved portfolio allocation.
\$988,000

Environment (\$292,000)

Projects within the portfolio allocation

 2025
 Funding
 Approved

Statutory change and subsequent implementation

\$50,000

With the change in government, there have been significant policy changes which are expected to continue in 2025. In particular, the resource management reform. Other regulations and policies may also change, such as the National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity (NPSIB), Essential Freshwater, the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) settings, the National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry (NES-CF) and the design of a biodiversity credit system. The government has promised afforestation restrictions by Land Use Capability (LUC) classification too. This project fund will enable the Environment Committee to adequately resource responses to significant policy change.

Funds will also be used to deal with regional matters that the Environment Committee view to have the potential to set national precedent. Recent examples of such issues include the Environment Canterbury Plan Change 7 high court case and Otago Regional Council's Freshwater Plan.

Members of the Environment Committee have felt overwhelmed with the volume of engagement and litigation on regional and local matters and will need to be resourced appropriately to respond to new regulations and policies as they are developed and consulted on. Typically, funding is used to obtain legal advice.

The funding will also go some way in ensuring that the Committee is resourced to engage with government departments on guidance material, workshops and general implementation of the new policies and regulations that are gazetted.

Environmental consultant

\$13,000

The Environment Committee calls on the services of an expert Resource Management Act (RMA) environmental consultant for advice as needed on issues that affect the sector. This role includes attending Committee meetings, advice on RMA and planning matters and updates to national policies in light of a number of regulatory changes. Funding ensures contracting of this expertise can continue.

Travel and accommodation

\$2,500

Costs for Committee members to attend meetings. Subject to approval by Committee Chair.

Rare species website

\$150

Annual fees to cover website hosting of the rare species guides.

Forest Practice Guides/Environmental Code of Practice
\$50,750

In 2023, work combining and updating the Forest Practice Guides (FPGs) with the older but more comprehensive Environmental Code of Practice (ECOP) commenced. The consultant engaged by the Environment Committee to progress this project has developed the framework for the new ECOP and the first draft of each chapter was written by the end of the 2024 calendar year. It is anticipated that this will be the last year that funding is required to fully complete the ECOP by the end of 2025. This year will focus on reviewing and refining the ECOP, presenting the revamped document in a user-friendly, engaging document and then promoting the finalised document through various channels.

Land use study – Pākuratahi paired catchment
\$85,600

From 1993-2005, the Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC), with assistance from a number of parties, undertook a paired catchment study monitoring and comparing various water quality attributes in two similar adjacent catchments - one in forestry and the other in farmland. The study period included first rotation harvest of forest in the Pākuratahi catchment. The Hawke's Bay Forestry Group is currently in discussion with the HBRC to reactivate part of that study to monitor the period up to and including second rotation harvest for a more complete record particularly in relation to sediment losses. It is proposed that the study is repeated making use of emerging monitoring technologies.

The Environment Committee is strongly supportive of the project. Data from the original study is still relied on heavily by industry for consent applications and submissions. A commitment to undertaking this project will need to occur over successive years to be of value.

FSC cluster group hui's and genetic engineering advocacy
\$28,000

Funding supports the costs associated with the wider Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) cluster group meeting. Issues are discussed as they arise, most recently this has included support for the application of the new standard.

The Environment Committee feels it is important for New Zealand to have a strong pro-genetic engineering voice at the 2025 General Assembly (GA) and to engage with others attending who we know to be strong advocates for Genetic Engineering (GE). The Committee intends to advocate for GE in FSC-certified forests, which make up 70% of New Zealand's commercial forests. Whilst it is great to see a relaxing of GE regulations from the government here, if FSC-certified forests are unable to take up the option, a large proportion of commercial forests will be excluded from the opportunities that GE presents.

Wilding conifers advocacy and subscription
\$3,000

An annual subscription fee of \$3000 is required for membership of the Wilding Pine Network (WPN), a group advocating for the control of wilding conifers.

A strong anti-forestry rhetoric is being pushed by many of the WPN members; therefore it is important that the Environment Committee has a position on the Wilding Pine Network to respond to, educate and bring balance to this group.

Monitoring native species planting

\$9,000

This is a continuation – the write up phase – of a New Zealand Farm Forestry Association (NZFFA) project supported by the Environment Committee in 2021 and 2022, monitoring the success of lowland, permanent native tree plots.

Native species planting, with its wide range of site conditions and practitioners, is known to be quite expensive, more difficult and with mixed success (when compared with traditional exotic forest plantings). The 2025 project will look to extend the monitoring sites to hill country plots and establish measurement plots.

The objective of the project is to determine the factors affecting the success or failure of indigenous plants throughout New Zealand. This project is a collaboration with Tāne's **Tree Trust** and has co-funding to the value of \$6,400.

The impact of modern harvesting techniques on resident kiwi populations in production forests

\$50,000

Kiwi can thrive in pine forests. However, there has been no recent research into the effects of modern harvesting techniques on the North Island Brown Kiwi, the most recent research having been conducted in the 1980s. This project, led by Save the Kiwi, endeavours to answer the question of whether full protection of kiwi at harvest time, or lesser mitigation at harvest time but greater investment in predator control and dog management over the rotation of a forest, will have a greater positive effect on kiwi numbers. It is hoped that the outcome of this research will provide both the forestry sector and regulators with a science-informed tool to make the best decisions for protecting kiwi while ensuring production forestry can progress efficiently. The project is also supported by \$30,000 of co-funding from the University of Canterbury.

Total for projects ranked within pre-approved portfolio allocation.

\$292,000

Health and Safety (\$728,000)

Projects within the portfolio allocation

 2025
 Funding
 Approved

Forest Industry Safety Council (FISC)

\$728,000

Committed liability for 2024 including an admin resource and accounting support for FISC Trust. FISC has operated successfully to date and has commitment from ACC for project funding up to June 2025. FISC requires core funding for 2025 to continue its programme of work. ACC's contribution will be in addition to the funding granted by the FGLT.

Key budget lines of the FISC work programme will include: FISC operating costs (Chief Executive Office, administrative support costs and office overheads)	\$327,000
Stakeholder engagement via regular newsletters, regional workshops, attendance at industry events and an annual Safetree conference	\$67,000
Costs associated with the operation of the Council and their governance of the agreed work programme and projects	\$58,000
Safetree Certification (Ecoportal licensing, and certification programme costs)	\$215,000
IRIS (Injury Recording Incident System) industry data programme	\$56,000
Operational Action Group	\$5,000
Total	\$728,000

Safetree Contractor and Worker Certification scheme**Embed certification in industry**

The Independent Forest Safety Review (IFSR) made key recommendations that the forest industry, led by FISC, implement the following:

- A contractor certification scheme
- Individual competency standards for high-risk tasks; tree felling and breaking out

Schemes have been developed, Safetree Contractor Certification and Safetree Worker Certification, along with governance of both schemes.

In developing these certification schemes a key focus has been to educate the wider sector in the following areas: leadership, risk management, worker engagement and current competency for high-risk tasks.

In developing Safetree Contractor Certification, the following matters have been taken into consideration:

- There is sufficient industry support for the schemes to become self-sustaining; development work has been supported strongly by FICA and FOA have also taken a keen interest.
- Maintain costs at an accessible level to ensure smaller companies will be able to participate; currently costs for individual companies to join the certification scheme are estimated to be in the region of \$1,500 - \$2,500.

It is recognised that support for the scheme will rely largely on forest owners and other supply chain participants acknowledgement and acceptance of the certifications.

The FISC Council continues the “roll-out” and embedding of these schemes with industry participants nationwide which will require additional infrastructure requirements. In order to accomplish this FISC requires funding for

Certification:

- Training sufficient assessors for Safetree Worker Certification and conducting peer review workshops*
- Training sufficient auditors for Safetree Contractor Certification and conducting peer review workshops*
- System administration costs

Promotions (\$1,148,000)

Projects within the portfolio allocation

2025
Funding
Approved

Annual public opinion survey

\$37,000

This project will enable the Promotions Committee to continue its annual public opinion survey on forestry in 2025, marking the fifth survey since tracking of public sentiment began in 2020. The survey will canvas how the public's perceptions of forestry have shifted and provide an in-depth overview of key audiences, top narratives and areas for future consideration with respect to messaging and communications. The overall goal is to understand where perception pressure points for the industry are and to gather objective data that can inform the FGLT's communication efforts to gradually improve the sector's reputation and trust rating.

2025 reputation and trust campaign

\$650,000

Forestry's reputation is under increasing pressure from the complex dynamic between community values, environmental stewardship, economic interests and land use rights – to name a few. A shift away from reactive communications towards greater investment into pre-emptive, large-scale communication efforts is needed to achieve sustained engagement and visibility that enhances forestry's reputation in the long run.

The campaign will look to further raise the profile of forestry at a national level, taking more of a 'hearts and minds' approach that showcases our people, while broadcasting the numerous benefits forestry offers New Zealand.

The insights generated from the 2024 pilot campaign will be used to inform the most effective approach to ensure messaging resonates. Audiences will be broadened, targeting 18 – 55+ year olds, predominantly through television commercials, supplemented by a mix of digital, social and print media.

The objective is to produce a gradual improvement in New Zealander's sentiment towards forestry, as measured by positive shifts in reputation and trust scores and New Zealanders' narratives of forestry.

Agency support

\$70,000

The agency support fund is needed to supplement the secretariat's communications efforts with resources and expertise not covered elsewhere in the budget. E.g., design of resources which the secretariat cannot complete in-house and development of website infrastructure which also calls for specialist skills.

It includes the likes of digital expertise, social media community support, campaign planning, generation of forest grower resources and more.

Socioeconomic benefits of forestry report
\$50,000

The socioeconomic impacts of forestry have not been assessed in more than five years. Accurate and up-to-date data is needed to gauge the current benefits forestry delivers to the regions and to address some of the key misconceptions surrounding forestry as a land use. The report will look to capture employment data, land use information (e.g. productivity per hectare), forestry's contributions to the economy, and more. The data and insights generated from this report will be critical for validating forestry's value to rural communities and will support sector advocacy and promotional efforts.

Website development and maintenance fees
\$30,000

Twenty-four industry group websites are currently being rationalised into one joint website to better serve the needs of the sector and offer a platform that appeals to visitors seeking information on forestry.

The FGLT and Forest Owners Association have agreed to consolidate its websites into one using an umbrella name of Forest Growers New Zealand. The new website and joint branding are tracking to be completed and rolled out in 2025.

Funds will also provide flexibility to build more website capability, along with ongoing maintenance and hosting fees.

Communications tools
\$25,000

Essential communications tools are needed by the secretariat to better service the needs of growers and ensure effective and efficient execution of the Promotions work programme. These tools will improve the team's ability to respond to communications challenges, extend outreach and improve engagement with growers. This project proposes implementing a media monitoring tool that delivers real-time media insights for forestry. Software and equipment for in-house production of content, including video, are also included in this proposal.

Facts & Figures publication
\$33,000

The Forest Growers Levy Trust has produced a brochure containing background information and statistical data on New Zealand's forest growing sector for more than 20 years. This publication is updated annually and has proven to be a valuable source of data, covering production, exports, world forestry insights, comparisons with other primary industries, contact lists, employment, health and safety progress, environmental monitoring and more.

Funding enables the Promotions Committee to continue producing this resource. A small budget increase has been factored in to cover increased print and design costs and to scope out other options for digitising data collection, so information is more accurate, up-to-date and accessible throughout the year.

Discover forestry – schools forestry education programmes 2025
\$200,000

Discover Forestry aims to continue its successful forestry education programme for the

fourth year, maintaining forestry school days, field trips, careers expos, and presentations at primary and secondary schools across New Zealand.

Since its inception, Discover Forestry has reached over 10,000 students, enhancing their understanding of forestry.

These engagements foster an appreciation for forestry within schools and communities by offering resources, books, activities, demonstrations, and partnerships with local forestry companies, encouraging learning and awareness of forestry's role in society.

Their team of dedicated forestry communicators will provide face-to-face interactions with schools and primary industry sector groups, expanding knowledge about forestry and its products in everyday life. They also aim to connect students with training programmes and career pathways related to forestry.

NZFFA communications to support non-member, small scale forest owners

\$40,000

There are around 15,000 small scale forest owners in New Zealand who are not directly affiliated with the Forest Owners Association or the NZFFA. For all but a very few, forestry is not their day job, it is a secondary interest for the purpose of better land use or investment. Their forests are managed sporadically and harvested when it seems appropriate.

The NZFFA believes it is important to advocate for this group to protect their investments and land use and encourage them to stay informed. Funding for this project will assist NZFFA in supporting small scale forest owners via:

1. Attendance at National Field Days, Central Districts Field Days and Southern Field Days to educate farmers and visitors about the benefits of commercial forestry
2. Monitoring local and central government interventions in commercial forestry and making submissions where appropriate to clarify the impact of proposed changes to regulations on small scale forest growers; advocate for their point of view; and argue for relief as necessary.
3. Enabling members to attend forest industry working groups, consultation groups, trusts and committees to offer their experience and a small-scale grower perspective.
4. Hosting activities around the country to share information and demonstrate effective forest establishment and management to landowners and existing small scale forest owners.

Responding to queries and providing information and referrals to growers as and when appropriate.

Enhancing community engagement across regional wood councils in New Zealand

\$8,000

Forestry operations significantly impact the communities in which they occur, influencing local economies, environments and lifestyles. As public awareness of environmental and social issues grows, the forestry sector must proactively engage with communities to build trust and ensure that operations reflect community interests.

The eight regional Wood Councils of New Zealand play a pivotal role in supporting the forestry sector but require resource to effectively engage with their communities.

This application seeks will assist the regional Wood Councils to undertake community engagement initiatives. The intention of these initiatives will be to foster stronger relationships between the forestry sector and local communities, promote transparency and ensure that community concerns and aspirations are incorporated into forestry practices.

External memberships

\$5,000

Memberships of external organisations such as Business New Zealand, the International Council of Forest and Paper Associations (ICFPA) and the Guild of Agricultural Journalists and Communicators provides the FGLT important relationship building opportunities and national and international forums for representing forest growers' interests.

Membership of these organisations also grants access to valuable research and insights and peer-to-peer support which can be used to further the levy work programme.

Total for projects ranked within pre-approved portfolio allocation.

\$1,148,000

Research, Science & Technology (\$4,807,500)

More than half of the projects set out below represent continuations of long-term, co-funded research and have obtained consistent funding from the Trust since their establishment. This includes the Automation and Robotics, 21st Century Tissue Culture, Tree Root Microbiome and Precision Silviculture programmes.

These research programmes continue to receive strong industry support and are directly aligned with the Forest Growing Science and Innovation Strategy 2020–2035.

The levy funds allocated to the Research, Science and Technology portfolio in 2025 totals \$4,807,500 – an 8% increase (\$350,000) in funding allocated compared to 2024.

Fifty-one proposals for FGLT funding were received by the Forest Research Committee in October 2024, requesting more than \$5.3 million in total. A shortlist of 29 proposals was selected for evaluation by the Forest Research Committee.

The evaluation process involved the strategic assessment framework and associated tool, giving a weighted assessment to measure each project’s ability to contribute to a key set of drivers. It was also important that the proposals aligned with at least one of the Forest Growers Levy Trust’s five strategic priority areas.

Projects within the portfolio allocation	2025 Funding Approved
<p>Automation and Robotics in Harvesting and Logistics</p> <p>This is a Primary Growth Partnership (PGP) between industry and MPI with a focus on automation and robotics, post tree felling to improve the safety and efficiency of operations in the log supply chain, reduce repetitive manual tasks and make harvesting and logistics jobs a more attractive option for a new generation of workers. Projects include the automated hauler, automated log load securing, remote felling wedge, in-field debarker, automated log ID and improved residual biomass management. The Partnership commenced on 1 January 2019 and will enter its seventh year of nine years with industry contributing 60% and MPI 40%. The programme was granted a two-year extension, through to the end of 2027. This is to enable successful completion of the development and commercialisation of products, and achievement of successful outcomes.</p>	\$400,000
<p>21st Century Tissue Culture Partnership (TCP)</p> <p>A seven-year partnership with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) that commenced on 1 July 2019 and is focused on improving the efficiency of tissue culture plant production through automated propagation systems. Building on the significant past investment in breeding and genomics, this programme aims to considerably shorten the time required to deploy the best genetics from breeding programmes to the forest. It will also broaden the selection of improved genotypes that can be propagated efficiently and is a valuable method for gene editing and other genetic technologies.</p>	\$600,000

Precision Silviculture Programme

\$1,300,000

This seven-year programme seeks to implement practice change across the key forest management processes within the nursery, planting, pruning and thinning. Intended innovation will include mechanisation and precision/automation advancements to make the recovery of thinned biomass more financially viable and removing labour constraints impacting the viability of pruning. The programme will look to leverage off existing innovation in areas such as remote sensing, terrestrial robotics and geospatial location. It aims to create benefit for all forest owners and explores improvement to manual processes using power-assisted tools and battery-operated devices, as well as novel engineering for use in planting, pruning and thinning. This programme has a strong health and safety component and looks to create new career pathways for the forestry workforce.

Tree Root Microbiome

\$225,000

A five-year MBIE Endeavour funded programme that aims to take scientific learnings from the human microbiome and use them to guide research on the root microbiome of radiata pine. The goal is to gain an understanding of how the root microbiome can alter a tree's response to changing environmental conditions.

Rural Fire Research

\$65,000

The Rural Fire Research programme is extending current research testing the new convective fire spread theory developed by the US Forest Service for extreme fire behaviour through burn experiments in standing conifers (wilding crown fires) and heavy slash fuels (fire whirls and mass fire behaviour). It will also model wildfire spread in the rural-urban interface where houses are fuels, by linking computer models for suburban wildfire spread and atmospheric turbulence with data on ignition properties of buildings and vegetation fuels. Research will also be conducted into the flammability of indigenous forests, better preparing rural-urban interface communities through improved wildfire risk planning and use of guided innovation practices for developing new firefighting tools, technologies and decision-support systems. The programme of work built into the new proposed MBIE Research Programme bid, *Extreme wildfire: Our new reality - are we ready?*, was developed in partnership with the New Zealand Forest Owners Association, Forest Growers Research, Te Uru Rākau and other members of the Rural Fire Research Advisory Committee.

Hosting and supporting online radiator calculator

\$40,000

Hosting the Radiata online Forecaster Calculator that is used by small growers and consultants to develop yield estimates and to evaluate alternative silvicultural regimes.

Forest Growers Research – annual conference 2025

\$40,000

Support for workshops and conferences where the full cost cannot be recovered through user pays.

Biotech-based durable resistance to fungal forest pathogens

\$100,000

This project is developing biotech-based solutions to provide robust, low environmental impact and chemical-free strategies to meet existing and future (not yet arrived) fungal and

oomycete pathogen challenges for New Zealand's plantation forestry. The research will identify and inactivate tree disease susceptibility genes (a diverse group of genes with varying roles that when present/functional render plants more susceptible to invading pathogens). The use of gene editing will allow precise and rapid gene inactivation and allow trees to be produced without transgenes (added DNA) which will facilitate outdoor testing and deployment.

Pre-emptive biosecurity– a unique and immediate opportunity

\$78,000

Testing the performance of New Zealand radiata pine germplasm in a foreign environment exposed to pathogens and insects currently not present in New Zealand. This research will provide a perspective of the risk of potentially invasive pests and pathogens and new knowledge to enhance the resilience of New Zealand's radiata pine plantations.

New Zealand radiata pine in Spain will be exposed to several potentially invasive pests and pathogens to achieve these aims. The pathogens include, among others, *Fusarium circinatum* (pine pitch canker), *Dothistroma pini*, *Dothistroma septosporum* variants (Dothistroma needle blight) and *Lecanosticta acicola* (brown spot needle blight). In addition, these trees will be exposed to potentially invasive insects *Thaumetopoea pityocampa* (pine processionary moth) and *Lymantria dispar dispar* (European gypsy moth). This project involves monitoring plants in the laboratory, greenhouse, nursery and forest stands for the specific purpose of assessing the selection pressures.

Adaptation Diversification and Resilience 2025

\$245,000

This project involves four key research areas that will deliver the necessary evidential basis to develop a long-term research programme, to support and guide forest growers on adaptation, diversification and resilience strategies for the future. The key outputs include: (a) a practical framework for forest growers to evaluate the best species and management regimes for adapting to risks from climate change and market uncertainty (Portfolio framework), (b) identification of long-term, large-scale forces shaping the future of forestry in New Zealand and potential scenarios and responses (Megatrend analysis), (c) an industry-wide baseline on Social Licence to Operate (SLO) and a practical method for forest growers to measure and monitor their performance against SLO indicators (Social Licence Indicators), and (d) improved access to and utility of, research, data and information on alternative species in New Zealand (AI-driven information harvesting and synthesis). These outputs will be used to develop a compelling business case for a multi-year research programme.

Resilient Forests – Research Area 2 productivity, resilience and wood quality

\$300,000

This research area is a key priority area for most forest growers, with the focus on two main areas: Productivity enhancement through nutrition (including microbiome) and wood and fibre performance.

This programme is about increasing resilience, productivity and value of the *Pinus radiata* estate and achieving continuous improvements in silviculture and forest management.

Work will continue on measurement of the impacts of productivity enhancement practices and the performance of shorter rotations including the enhancement of wood maturity

Key enablers for this work include Phenotyping platform for monitoring, measuring and providing feedback and Growth models.

Management of Long-term trials (Puruki, accelerator trials) will continue to provide results on the impacts of site and stand interventions on tree health, productivity and resilience

Resilient Forests – Research Area 3 resilience to biotic risk

\$300,000

This Research area has been focusing on needle diseases such as Dothistroma and Red Need Cast (RNC). The key activities include: Quantification of growth impacts (sensor network), Epidemiological model for RNC to inform management, assessment of alternative (to copper) control measures and automated disease monitoring. The priorities for the coming year include: Economic impact of RNC at stand and estate level, assessment of the efficacy of control measures and moving beyond RNC to investigate other important diseases, including *Lecanosticta acicola* (Brown Spot Needle Blight).

Forestry hydrology monitoring phase 2

\$415,000

The Forest Hydrology Monitoring Phase 2 project will collect and analyse an additional year of data to provide robust scientific evidence on tree water use and catchment water storage. It will update the Forest Flows programme, develop a new hydrological model and share results through webinars and reports. The project aims to counteract misconceptions about radiata forests' water use and inform regulations, supporting the forestry industry's sustainability and regulatory compliance.

Hybrid cypress 300 series evaluation and replication at scale at Kinleith/Ruawai

\$55,000

This project will produce a suite of new hybrid cypress clones. The Scion hybrid cypress trials growing in Kinleith and Pipiwai (Northland) are now mature enough for critical assessment to be made and selections taken to reproduce the best of these through clonal propagation as cuttings.

Key benefits to the sector include increased species diversity by introducing hybrid cypress clones that are more drought and snow tolerant than radiata pine. The hybrid cypress clones are expected to have a crop rotation length within 25% of the current radiata rotation but with the benefit of doubling the current radiata value when matched to similar sawlog grades.

The wide geographic range of the cypress species used in the trials will produce clones that thrive in various current and future climate types within New Zealand. The project will also provide timber products that can influence markets currently served by imported products.

Effective management solutions for terminal crook disease

\$90,000

This project aims to develop management solutions for controlling *Colletotrichum acutatum* (CA), the pathogen causing terminal crook disease (TCD) of young radiata pine seedlings. This disease poses a significant threat to the forestry industry, leading to substantial production losses and impacting forest establishment. The reemergence of this

disease has the potential to disrupt delivery of approximately 2M seedlings each year, disrupting planting across 1818ha (at 1100 stems per ha).

Current fungicide strategies are failing despite intensified use. The project will investigate CA strains in nurseries, assess fungicide resistance, and optimise current management solutions to restore control and ensure the forest growing value chain is not disrupted.

The benefits to the forestry industry include reduced seedling losses, cost savings by optimising fungicide application methods and reducing unnecessary sprays and protecting valuable genetic stock from TCD.

2010 Redwood benchmarking trials – assessment and reporting

\$42,500

The project aims to increase the confidence of growers in purchasing and planting Redwood clonal material by providing an independent report on the growth rates of the best clones at two contrasting sites. The 2010 Redwood benchmarking trials were established on two sites (Okota and Mount Heslington) to compare Redwood clones from a range of sources from industry-owned to the Kuser Collection. These trials have been partially assessed on an ad-hoc basis and no formal reporting has happened. The Okota trial has only been assessed at age two.

This project will allow the identification and confirmation of the best clones in the trial. Poorer clones can be removed from production systems, quickly raising the overall genetic quality and performance of the remaining clones being produced. The project will help identify similar sites where the material is expected to grow well.

The deployment of well-tested clonal material is expected to result in better growth rates and financial returns, benefiting the forest growing sector by providing a reliable alternative to *Pinus radiata*.

Seed collection and growth stress of *Eucalyptus Fastigata*

\$55,000

Eucalyptus fastigata is a fast-growing species suitable for various regions in New Zealand, making it a good diversification candidate for the forestry sector. Used for carbon forests, it enjoys higher Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) returns than *Pinus radiata*. Its ability to coppice is also useful on steeper sites to retain soil after harvest. By identifying next-generation genotypes with reduced growth stress, the project seeks to mitigate processing issues to improve sawing recoveries and financial returns for processors. High genetic quality seed is available from a grafted seed orchard. The collection of high-quality seeds will enable new plantings and trials, benefiting future growers and contributing to the diversification and risk management of New Zealand's forestry sector.

Understanding outdoor durability of specialty species

\$48,500

This project addresses a key barrier to the use of specialty species in outdoor environments by gathering the necessary durability data for New Zealand-grown specialty wood species. The project will increase the range of high-value products that can be made from these species, thereby improving grower confidence and encouraging the planting of diverse forest species.

When testing is completed, data will be publicly available to demonstrate the natural durability classes of New Zealand-grown cypress clones and durable eucalypts and compliance with the building code for thermally modified cypress and Douglas-fir decking and cladding and New Zealand-grown Macrocarpa and Larch for framing timber.

In the longer term, the data collected will also be used to inform Standards Committee decisions, ultimately leading to new products on the market and easier specification of these species in new applications.

Using DNA metabarcoding to identify invasive forestry pests

\$30,000

This project will strengthen forest biosecurity surveillance systems by extending existing DNA sequencing methods to identify known and unwanted forestry pest species that are not currently present in New Zealand. It will enhance the early detection of these pests which is critical for successful eradication.

It will deliver a cost-effective and rapid method for identifying bark and wood boring beetles using DNA metabarcoding, which can identify multiple known and unknown species from a single sample compared to traditional identification using a microscope. This means the forestry industry will be less reliant on specialist diagnostics for identification.

Analysis of damage from Cyclone Gabrielle at Rangipo using forestGALES

\$52,500

The project aims to enhance the resilience of New Zealand's radiata pine plantations by using the ForestGALES wind-risk model to predict and mitigate wind damage.

By focusing on the Rangipo genetics trial, which was impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle, the project will recreate the cyclone's effects to fine-tune the ForestGALES model. This will help identify radiata pine clones with greater wind resistance and determine the key attributes contributing to this resilience. Additionally, simulations will be used to optimise stand layouts and thinning intensities, reducing wind risk in future plantations.

The outcomes include improved wind damage prediction accuracy, identification of genetic traits that confer wind-resistance and optimized management practices.

This research will provide forest managers with actionable insights to reduce economic losses and enhance the long-term sustainability of New Zealand's forestry sector.

Soil biodiversity promotes investment and social license of plantation forestry in New Zealand

\$50,000

This project will help improve the forestry sector's social licence to operate by reducing the risk of ill-informed criticism. It will provide quantitative data on soil biodiversity in plantation forests compared to natural forests and pasture lands in New Zealand, informing best practice under the National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry (NES-CF).

The project will provide the first New Zealand comparison of soil biodiversity across different land uses, with specific outcomes including a quantitative comparison of species richness, community composition and soil functional groups.

2025 Youth Micro Innovation Challenge: supporting forestry's next generation of innovators

\$15,000

The 2025 Youth Micro Innovation Challenge aims to harness the significant innovative potential of young foresters. Today's global youth population is the largest in history, and growing fast, the Unidentified this group as a "powerful and significant" force for change. They are passionate about the future, with a large proportion anxious about the effects of climate change. The next generation of forestry workers and managers offer fresh perspectives, modern concepts and technology-derived solutions. But they can often be overlooked leading to demotivation, disengagement and lost ideas.

Micro Innovation is an evidenced-based, proven process that stimulates and captures operational improvements with more than 90 ideas registered in four Challenges and over \$140,000 of financial assistance allocated to build and test prototypes. Young foresters have contributed 25% of ideas submitted in previous Challenges.

By translating innovations from large-scale operations to small-scale forestry, the project will enhance economic viability, improve efficiency and reduce implementation costs. This initiative promises to produce practical and affordable solutions, benefiting the wider industry, small woodlot owners and young foresters, ultimately contributing to the sustainability and resilience of the forestry sector

Forestry biosecurity pest risk evaluation: phase 3

\$106,000

The aim of this project is to provide industry with intelligence on insect pests of *Pinus radiata* likely to establish in New Zealand. This will allow the industry to improve their preparation (e.g., surveillance, response plans, long term management plans).

There are hundreds of potential insects not yet in New Zealand which could establish here and present a biosecurity risk to *Pinus radiata*. These insects are diverse, so we need a method to prioritise which types of species to prepare our post-border surveillance to detect, have response plans ready or have long term management options available ahead of time to minimise the future costs to industry.

Previously in phase 1 we identified hundreds of *Pinus radiata* insects and ranked these based on the likelihood of establishment in New Zealand. In phase 2 we modelled the spread within New Zealand for 28 of the high ranked insects if they did establish.

In phase 3 we would model the economic impact of these 28 insects.

Selection and deployment of elite *Eucalyptus bosistoana* for short rotation hardwood forestry

\$72,500

Durable eucalypts offer a short rotation option for some forest growers. The New Zealand Dryland Forests Initiative (NZDFI) envisions planting 60,000 hectares of durable hardwood forests over 25-30 years, requiring the production of 5-7 million seedlings annually.

This project focuses on expanding Proseed's clonal seed orchard to produce XyloGene® seed, which will ensure high-quality forests with greater volume and wood quality at

harvest. The project involves phenotypic assessment of previously unscreened *Eucalyptus bosistoana* families to identify elite families with superior growth and wood properties.

The benefits to the New Zealand forestry industry include increased returns for forest growers and farm foresters, significant value generation through regional wood supply catchments and the production of naturally durable and strong timber that can substitute CCA-treated pine, reducing hazardous waste. Additionally, the project supports regional processing hubs, contributing to economic growth and job creation.

Adapting Eucalyptus tissue culture and biotechnology to New Zealand needs

\$82,500

Impending changes to GMO legislation offer an opportunity to rapidly leverage international research for New Zealand forest growers. While in vitro propagation and gene editing of Eucalyptus is successful abroad, these techniques have primarily targeted tropical species unsuitable for New Zealand's environment.

While traditional breeding methods aim to improve growth and form, they are limited by a lengthy six-year generation cycle. In contrast, biotechnology, including genetic modification and genome editing, offers faster and more precise and targeted advancements.

We aim to translate and optimise existing Eucalyptus toolkits specifically for New Zealand species. Key traits targeted for improvement through these technologies include growth, form, biomass production, and pest resistance. To support this, plant micropropagation will become essential.

It is anticipated that this approach will provide the basis to rapidly unlock a variety of benefits for the country's forest industry, including growth rate, pest resistance, herbicide tolerance and wood properties optimization.

Total for projects ranked within pre-approved portfolio allocation

\$4,807,500

Small & Medium Enterprise (\$104,000)

Projects within the portfolio allocation

2025
Funding
Approved

Improve alternative species functionality in Treefarmer

\$50,405

Treefarmer is an online mapping tool, developed by FGLT, for planning a forest and how best to harvest it. It aims to improve the afforestation and harvesting experience of small-scale forest growers.

Treefarmer uses map overlays to allow users to study sites, mark boundaries, calculate areas, determine slopes and erosion risk, avoid power lines and plan roads and skids. It has productivity layers for different species, and typical costs and revenues to test management and harvesting options.

This project will add the following species to Treefarmer:

- Eucalyptus delegatensis
- Eucalyptus fastigata
- Eucalyptus nitens
- Eucalyptus regnans
- Eucalyptus saligna
- Acacia melanoxylon - Blackwood

Adding these new species will give growers the confidence to diversify the species they plant, improving the sectors resilience to pests and diseases.

Complete growth and health assessment of *Abies Grandis*

\$29,750

Contingency species for Radiata pine are virtually non-existent in New Zealand. ***Abies Grandis*** is a much-used timber species on the West Coast of North America but its potential as a contingency species to ***Pinus radiata*** still needs to be assessed.

Abies Grandis can be expected to grow well on most sites across the country, with a clear advantage in relation to its ability to withstand drought conditions as well as heavy snowfall events. It has similar mechanical properties to ***Pinus radiata*** but, being a completely different species, is unlikely to be adversely affected by the same pathogens.

We have some 2005 data on the growth rates within a stand of ***Abies Grandis*** at Gwavas Forest however, the information is now dated. This project will update this data with new height and diameter measurements and foliage samples taken for health assessment. This will be referenced against existing data to see if the trees are still growing.

With the current interest being shown in ***Abies Grandis*** as a potential contingency species, it is vital to obtain current data to give renewed confidence to growers. The entire forest industry stands to benefit from a species that has similar growth rates to ***Pinus radiata*** and can be substituted across a broad range of timber products for both structural and appearance uses.

Pūriri propagation: testing climatic influences
\$8,563

Pūriri is known to produce some of the strongest wood of any indigenous tree in New Zealand. European settlers recognised this and trees with good growth form were selectively harvested en masse, leaving behind a population with poor form, from which the majority of current Pūriri are descended.

Scion has identified an opportunity to resolve this population limitation through the propagation of seed and material collected from a recently secured stand of Pūriri displaying good form and straight growth. Support from the FLGT will enable this project to extend to assessments of climate sensitivity and enhance propagation protocols.

The project will also improve our understanding of where these trees can be successfully established, supporting future deployment at scale – providing benefits to forest growers wishing to invest in establishing an indigenous species with recognised high-economic and ecological value.

Establishing the commercial properties of Poplar timber in New Zealand
\$13,175

There is a large poplar resource in New Zealand, primarily grown for soil conservation. It has not been managed for producing high-value timber and mature trees are not recognised as having commercial value.

To extract more value from the existing resource and encourage further planting and utilisation, there is a need to establish the timber properties and quality of known poplar varieties grown over rotations similar to that of radiata pine. Then create a market for existing mature trees grown in woodlots or for erosion control that will encourage further planting and management.

This is stage two of a three-stage project to establish a commercial poplar timber industry in New Zealand. Stage one identified that timber from poplar cultured as a silvopastoral tree is widely used in North America, China, India and Europe. In stage two, mature trees of known age and cultivar will be sourced from research trial plots around the country, and milled to establish sawing techniques, timber yields, grades, preservation, storage and wood properties. Additional information will come from landowners or millers already harvesting and processing the species.

Travel and Accommodation
\$2,107

Costs for Committee members to attend meetings. Subject to approval by Committee Chair.

Total for projects ranked within pre-approved portfolio allocation.
\$104,000

Training & Careers (\$81,000)

This programme is managed and overseen by the Training and Careers Committee whose purpose is to consult on and support a coordinated programme on plantation forestry training delivery and training needs. The Committee includes forest grower representatives (FOA, NZFFA, Ngā Pou a Tane and Wood Councils), plus, industry representatives comprising FICA, Competenz (the industry's ITO), government and training providers (School of Forestry, PolyTechs) to ensure the work programme supports standards and training solutions that deliver on current industry needs.

Projects within the portfolio allocation

2025
Funding
Approved

Forestry Careers website support

\$15,000

Funding for maintenance and improvements to the Forestry Careers website - formerly referred to as the T&C portal website (<https://www.forestrycareers.nz/>). An external web agency will handle security and software updates. Project funding will be used for website hosting and content enhancements to keep the site engaging and informative for visitors exploring forestry careers and training. This may include hiring a photographer/videographer for fresh media assets and a designer for updated icons and content, particularly for the forest harvesting job profiles section.

Support of teaching and research in forest engineering - University of Canterbury School of Forestry.

\$20,000

This funding will support the School of Forestry to educate future forest engineers.

It will help pay for the post-doctorate teaching/ research position (Dr Trevor Best) and support a graduate student to engage in applied forest engineering research to reduce harvesting impacts, specifically soil disturbance recovery after winch-assist operations. Finally, two \$4,000 FGLT scholarships will help recruit high quality students into the Forest Engineering program.

This level of support will allow Prof. Rien Visser and Dr Campbell Harvey to teach at least six professional development workshops where they share findings from recent applied research with industry. The research will develop new teaching materials for the School of Forestry curriculum (including updates to harvest residue management). All of these elements will be 50% co-funded by the School of Forestry.

Training and Careers - Promotional forestry careers material (folder pack)

\$10,000

Provision of Training and Careers materials for expos, schools, welcome packs etc. Includes creation and print costs of collateral. Resources need to be updated to stay relevant to industry new entrants and mid-career job changers.

Transport and demonstrate forestry simulators

\$10,000

Forestry harvesting machinery simulators are used at selected career expos, school

recruitment events and other outreach activities nationwide. The aim is to provide hands-on experiences of forestry machinery to a diverse audience, including students exploring forest harvesting as a career, individuals considering career changes into forestry and other interested participants.

This project will fund forest industry organisations to cover the transportation, management and demonstration of these simulators. The project aims to support a significant presence at the Mystery Creek Field Days in 2025, alongside additional events. Funding will cover up to three multi-day bookings and eight single-day bookings. Although historically most demonstrations have taken place in the Central North Island, funding is available for nationwide events.

Tokomairiro Forestry Pathways course

\$24,500

A Level 2 & 3 Forestry programme designed for Tokomairiro high school students in Years 12 and 13, equipping them with foundation knowledge and practical skills for a career in the forestry industry. This program offers a pathway for students interested in silviculture, harvesting or forest management. Each year, eight to ten students participate in a blend of classroom instruction and hands-on fieldwork, gaining experience in silviculture practices through workdays and site visits. The program helps promote forestry as a rewarding career for young people.

Over the years, this program has supported at-risk youth by providing a structured transition from school into paid employment mainly within silviculture crews and helping to address skill shortages in the industry.

Training and Careers Committee travel budget

\$1,500

Reimbursement of personal travel costs for non-salaried committee members to attend meetings.

Total for projects ranked within pre-approved portfolio allocation.

\$81,000

Transportation & Logistics (\$96,000)

Projects within the portfolio allocation

2025
Funding
Approved

Log Transport Safety Council Support: Membership contribution and safety and wellbeing support.

\$25,000

The Log Transport Safety Council (LTSC) is a pan industry collective of Truck operators, Transport Researchers, Trailer Manufacturers, Forest Owners, Legislators and Enforcement agencies. The LTSC is the primary industry organisation overseeing log transport related health and safety issues. It liaises with the Forest Industry Safety Council. Membership allows the FOA/NZFFA to have representation on the Council.

Funding supports the logtruck.co.nz driver feedback system for members of the public to provide logging truck driver feedback, along with support for LTSC driver and transport company certification, advocacy and log truck fleet safety standards.

The Transport Committee has nominated three of its members to sit on the LTSC and the LTSC has nominated one LTSC Board member to sit on the Transport Committee.

Driver wellbeing initiatives

\$9,900

In 2024, a campaign raising awareness of driver fatigue and wellbeing, named ***Get Real Behind the Wheel*** began.

Mental health support is an important issue for truck drivers who often work long hours and spend most of time in the cab alone. Fatigue management is an important issue to protect the safety and health of truck drivers and other motorists.

This funding will repeat the social media campaign using existing video footage, and partner with Be a mate, My Everyday Wellbeing, Vitae and the Blokes Book to provide Log Transport Safety Council (LTSC) members direct contact with these resources.

Export port logistics review

\$60,000

Funding will enable review of the export component of the NZ Forestry Supply Chain, including all aspects of port operations i.e., log marshalling, materials handling, stevedoring, vessel scheduling, vessel loading, port management etc., to understand current practices and potential impediments constraining efficiency and productivity. The data gathered will help determine enhancements required to reduce costs, increase industry sustainability, people's wellbeing and return on investment for forest growers.

This project is a continuation of the initial work completed by Woodhill Consulting who produced a scoping report in early 2024 and then interviewed stevedores, marshalling companies and export agents to canvas views on improving logistics efficiencies. Funding will be used to form an action plan across the industry and tackle the issues identified in

the scoping report. A specialist logistics or supply chain management consultant may be required to assist with this task in 2025.

Travel and accommodation

\$1,000

Costs for Committee members to attend meetings. Subject to approval by Committee Chair.

Website hosting

\$100

Website hosting for the Forest Owners Association Road Engineering Manual

Total for projects ranked within pre-approved portfolio allocation.

\$96,000