



## PineNet Newsletter

The newsletter for biosecurity readiness and response teams in the forestry sector

*Issue 6/October 2018*

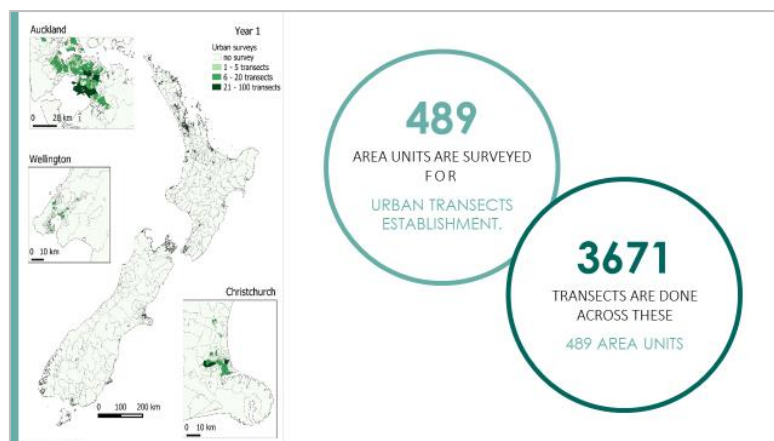
### Signing the Operational Agreement with MPI

In July, FOA and MPI signed an Operational Agreement for Readiness with the Ministry of Primary Industries. The OA is essentially a contract with MPI setting out the activities and caps on expenditure for cost-sharing readiness activities.

The signing of the OA triggered MPI to agree to fund a proportion of the Forest Biosecurity Surveillance Programme. The agreement covers 2018 to 2021 with a right of renewal for five years in total.

The cost-sharing arrangements save the forest growing sector around \$264,000 for the 2018 financial (calendar) year and even more in 2019 and 2020. A business case to use some of the 2018 savings for additional surveillance in high-risk forest sites (sites where incursions are more likely to be detected in a forest first) has been put to FGLT but the funding for this has not yet been secured.

*Image showing where the area units and transects are concentrated under the Forest Biosecurity Surveillance Programme.*



### Nurseries are now part of the forest growing sector for GIA purposes

After about a year of pulling together all the requirements for consultation and evidence required to complete our Mandate Application, the Forest Owners Association, and the Forest Nursery Growers Association are pleased to announce that our application for forest nurseries to join the forest growing sector's GIA was [approved by Minister O'Connor](#) in early October. This means that

in the event of a nursery biosecurity incursion, forest nurseries will be consulted and represented by FOA as part of any decision-making for responses or management.

### **Biosecurity Levy Application**

Our draft Biosecurity Levy application has been submitted to MPI. The application is for FOA to set up a levy on both seeding/cuttings, and harvested wood for triggering in the event of an incursion that affects a plantation forest species. The Ministry required some further consultations to take place regarding some aspects of the levy application. The notification for these issues will be completed by email for FOA members and all of the forest growing sector likely to have to pay the levy. Details of the consultation and feedback will be provided in the next couple of weeks.

### **Forest Biosecurity Review**

The first stage of the review is complete. The first stage undertook an investigation into the operational aspects of the forest biosecurity system, including the inter-relationships between FOA, MPI, Scion, forestry companies, and other stakeholders.

The review made a number of key observations and recommendations that the Forest Biosecurity Committee (FBC) is drafting into a short, medium, and longer-term work programme. For example, the review recommended that sector implement forest biosecurity hygiene practices, and review aspects of the pine pitch canker response plan. This plan was reviewed by Scion in 2016 but some aspects need further clarity. The review also suggested work on GIA engagement and community engagement in relation to aerial spraying. The review has given the FBC more clarity on the key issues that need addressing and the committee is now working to prioritise these issues and develop a programme of work.

One of the recommendations from the review was to update the Forest Visitor Hygiene Policy. The FOA has updated the format to a poster that organisations can display in offices and reception areas to keep overseas visitors and employees returning from overseas aware of the need to clean and check equipment and items taken into forests while they were overseas before entering New Zealand plantation forests.

The poster will be available in hard copy from FBC members and from FOA by emailing [venise.comfort@nzfoa.org.nz](mailto:venise.comfort@nzfoa.org.nz). A PDF version is [here](#) on the PineNet section of the FOA website.

**FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION**

## Visiting or returning from overseas?

Help protect our forests from pests and diseases.

**Before entering New Zealand:**

- Clothing** worn during nursery, forest, port or processing site visits must be cleaned. Drycleaning is an effective method of killing spores on clothing.
- Boots and shoes** must be brushed clean of all dirt and plant fragments. Treat the soles with a biocide solution such as Varicide or with hypochlorite.
- Field equipment** used in forests overseas (eg, pocket knives, pruners, cameras, binoculars, mobile phones and cases) should be wiped clean with a biocide/disinfectant.
- Camera and binocular cases** should be checked for plant fragments and wiped clean inside and out.
- Sports equipment** such as boots and golf clubs must be cleaned and any soil removed.
- Tents and sleeping bags** are high hazard items and need to be clean and free of soil.

**On arrival in New Zealand:**

- Let MPI border security know about your involvement in forestry.
- Tell MPI border security if you are carrying tents or sleeping bags that have been used in forests overseas.

**Before entering our forests:**

You may be asked to submit your footwear for further treatment (the treatment will not harm the footwear and is not toxic to animals and people).

**No clothing, footwear or equipment used overseas may be brought into New Zealand forests until the above requirements have been met.**

[www.nzfoa.org.nz](http://www.nzfoa.org.nz)

**Growing Our Future**

The second phase of the review will explore the strategic alignment of the sector to determine the scope and role of the FBC, and linkages with other organisations. This phase will commence in early 2019.

### Nursery Biosecurity Standard Development – working with MPI and NZPPI

NZ Plant Producers Incorporated is developing a Plant Production Biosecurity Standard on behalf of MPI. The FOA is represented on the steering committee. The purpose in developing the standard is to reduce biosecurity risk from all plant nurseries. The need for this standard was highlighted during the myrtle rust incursion. The approach being taken is to develop a standard that could be applied to all nurseries, and then to develop specific modules, such as a myrtle rust module.

### NatureWatch has a new name

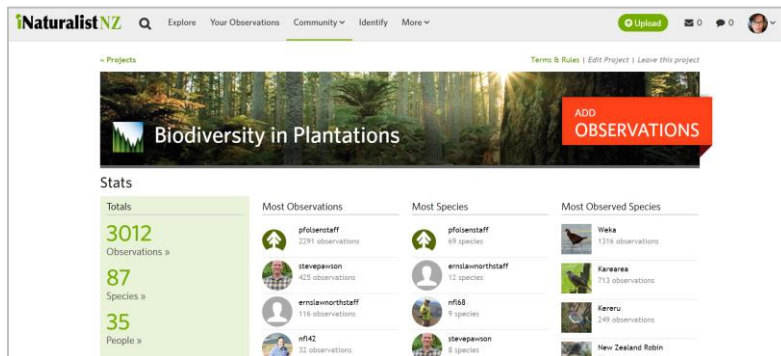
The NatureWatch website is now called iNaturalistNZ and the webpage is here <https://inaturalist.nz/home>. We would encourage everyone who owns, works in, or visits forests, to register and log on and make observations under the Biodiversity in Plantation Forests project.

<https://inaturalist.nz/projects/biodiversity-in-plantations>

Once you are registered, email Venise [venise.comfort@nzfoa.org.nz](mailto:venise.comfort@nzfoa.org.nz) and we will add you to the project.

The website is primarily to record biodiversity observations but there are some exciting tools coming up to record observations and report any suspicious symptoms or bugs to MPI for biosecurity purposes. We will keep you posted on development of an app that will work with iNaturalist, and we will be seeking pilot testers to work on this later in the year.

*Image showing the screen for Biodiversity in Plantation Forests.*



## Forest research update

Scion is working on a couple of key biosecurity initiatives, these updates are from the last FBC meeting in August.

- Improved detection and quantification of red needle cast using Massey University. The new process allows greater detection sensitivity and is more effective from a science and cost-effectiveness perspective.
- Aerial spraying research to understand spray drift. The modelling is designed to test turbulence and effectiveness of spraying canopies to maximise effectiveness.

*The image below shows the effect of wake turbulence on spray effectiveness on the same tree but different sides.*



## Is biosecurity for New Zealand forestry lagging behind agriculture?

In a recent article by Professor Phil Hulme from the BioProtection Centre at Lincoln University, it was concluded that “biosecurity for New Zealand forestry was lagging” in comparison with agricultural pests. This is because data showed agriculture has experienced a decline in the arrival of plant diseases in the cereal and pastoral sectors, while forestry pests have increased.

The FOA followed up with Professor Hulme and found that the situation was not as straightforward as implied in the article. It seems that the number of new species being reported is mainly a consequence of scientists finding and recording new pathogens in the Landcare Research database. Many of these pathogens are native to New Zealand and simply being recorded for the first time. There have been new forestry incursions as well, such as eucalyptus insects, myrtle rust, *Phytophthora pluvialis*, but it is not correct to say that forestry biosecurity is lagging, by any means.

Read the [press release](#) here

Read the academic full [PLOS Journal](#) article here.

## Interesting videos and newsletters

**Face TV – Forest Call series.** There are ten half hour episodes on a number of topics relating to forestry uploaded to the FOA website here.

<http://www.nzfoa.org.nz/news/forest-call-series-on-facetv>

**Composting video from Scion.** Showcasing the biodegradation facility to establish how to compost packaging more efficiently.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KryJk2yUWAo>

**Scion Connections newsletter** - <https://www.scionresearch.com/about-us/about-scion/corporate-publications/scion-connections/past-issues-list/scion-connections-issue-28,-june-2018>

**Ko Tātou – This Is Us** The following article is copied from the GIA Collegial Newsletter dated 5 October

A new programme launched last week by Biosecurity 2025 sets out to build a biosecurity team of 4.7 million New Zealanders. The programme highlights the personal connection of biosecurity to people’s lives and demonstrates that every New Zealander has an essential role helping to protect Aotearoa from pests and diseases.

“Right now it’s hard to ignore biosecurity,” says Roger Smith, Chair of the Biosecurity 2025 Steering Group and Head of Biosecurity New Zealand. “Where once it may have seemed a farming or horticulture concern and something the government did, incursions such as myrtle rust, kauri dieback and *Mycoplasma bovis*, have made it to the mainstream news. Biosecurity issues are increasingly relevant to all of us.”

**“Ko Tātou This Is Us** is an independent biosecurity brand that emphasises how biosecurity helps protect everything that shapes our way of life, from the outdoor environment where we farm, fish, hunt and explore, to the food we enjoy eating, and the beautiful biodiversity this country provides,” says Amber Bill, Biosecurity 2025 Steering Group member and Director Threats, Biodiversity Group, at the Department of Conservation.

Graeme Marshall, Biosecurity 2025 Steering Group member and Chairperson of the Biosecurity Ministerial Advisory Committee says **Ko Tātou This Is Us** is supported by a very visible public campaign. “It calls every New Zealander to think about their role in biosecurity, how it protects their way of life and the things they love, and how they can be part of the 4.7 million biosecurity team.”

**Ko Tātou This Is Us**, aims to connect all biosecurity participants and existing programmes and activities across the system, while also encouraging more programmes to emerge. The brand can be used by businesses, organisations, iwi and community groups to identify how they are committing to biosecurity or to promote their biosecurity-related programmes and activities. If you want to use the brand with your business refer to <https://www.thisisus.nz/get-involved/resources/>.

**“Ko Tātou This Is Us** is something for all businesses to consider and connect with. Biosecurity is fundamentally important to our economy and to the communities we live and do business in,” says Kimberly Crewther, Biosecurity 2025 Steering Group member and Executive Director of Dairy Companies Association of New Zealand (DCANZ).

“We all benefit from growing world trade and tourism. By taking a proactive approach to biosecurity, New Zealand businesses will protect these benefits and avoid unnecessary costs and disruptions. Dairy companies will be an active part of New Zealand’s biosecurity team of 4.7 million and we encourage other businesses to do the same.”

The public campaign launched today includes a thought-provoking video, featuring a kuia looking back on her life and urging New Zealanders to understand that everything which shapes our way of life is finite and fragile and we must all play our part in protecting it from pests and diseases.

Another element for the campaign involves New Zealand social media influencers who represent a broad range of activities and occupations. They have created videos, which highlight their own personal connection to biosecurity, why biosecurity matters to them, and what’s at stake for their way of life or livelihood.

A selection of these influencers include Pro XC Mountain Bike racer and Commonwealth Games Gold medallist, Anton Cooper; TV personality and owner of the largest and most award-winning cooking school in Australasia, Sachie Nomura; and Big Angry Fish hosts Milan Radonich and Nathan O’Hearn.

“We encourage all New Zealanders to be part of the 4.7 million biosecurity team and work together to keep Aotearoa safe from pests and diseases. Ko Tātou This Is Us,” says Roger Smith.

**Get involved:** visit [thisisus.nz](https://thisisus.nz)

Facebook page [www.facebook.com/kotatouthisisus](https://www.facebook.com/kotatouthisisus)

YouTube [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXt78\\_EoxeNe6LFf3Z1bvEw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXt78_EoxeNe6LFf3Z1bvEw)

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The date for the next Biosecurity Conference is TBC, but will be in early March 2019.

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