

# Submission

## **A Code of Ethics for Registered Forestry Advisors**

Submission to:  
Ministry of Primary Industries  
[TeUruRakau@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:TeUruRakau@mpi.govt.nz)

11 July 2022

Contents

Submitter..... 3

- a. Why comply with a code of ethics?..... 3
- b. Do you agree with each of the proposed ethics in the proposed code of ethics for registered forestry advisers? ..... 3
- c. Does the proposed code of ethics have the right scope? (Cover all potential activities a Forest Advisor may perform?)..... 4
- d. Is there anything else that should be included? ..... 4
- e. Is the wording clear and understandable?..... 5

Note on making this submission public..... 5

## Submitter

This is a submission on behalf of NZ Forest Owners Association Members.

FOA

The New Zealand Forest Owners Association Incorporated (FOA) is the representative membership body for the commercial scale plantation forest growing industry. FOA members are responsible for the management of approximately 1.2 million hectares of New Zealand's plantation forests and over 75% of the annual harvest.

FOA Submission: "A Code of Ethics for Registered Forestry Advisors".

### a. Why comply with a code of ethics?

1. Why should registered forestry advisers have to comply with a code of ethics? Please provide your reasons.

a) A code of ethics functions to maintain integrity in regards to a professions public interactions and makes sure they participate in fair business practices, which can essentially protect the industries reputation.

b) A code of ethics clearly lays out the rules for behaviour and provides the groundwork for a pre-emptive warning.

c) A code of ethics will help to identify and characterize the responsibilities of a Forest Advisor to those using the service.

d) It assists advisors in making decisions that create positive impacts and steering away from unjust outcomes.

### b. Do you agree with each of the proposed ethics in the proposed code of ethics for registered forestry advisers?

**Ethic 1:** Comply with all relevant law, rules, and regulations. Respect the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi/Te Tiriti o Waitangi and any obligations arising from it.

Agree. All advice and actions should comply with NZ law, and respect Treaty obligations.

**Ethic 2:** To provide forestry advice according to sound ecological, environmental, economic, cultural, and wellbeing principles

All advice and actions should be based upon sound ecological, environmental, economic, and cultural principles.

Remove "wellbeing principles". These are too subjective

**Ethic 3:** To treat everyone fairly, with courtesy and politeness. Respect cultural sensitivities and foster diversity.

Replace “courtesy and politeness” with “respectful, responsible and fair”.  
Retain: “respect cultural sensitivities and foster diversity”.

**Ethic 4:** To be open and transparent. Provide information and advice that is plain and intelligible.

Agree – this means avoiding legalise in contracts and advice. Also means the reasoning / context behind advice given should be provided. An important step in providing useful advice.

**Ethic 5:** To avoid harming people’s health, safety, and/or wellbeing.

Agree.

**Ethic 6:** To provide a high standard of service. Maintain confidentiality, exercise diligence, objectivity, and care.

Remove: “To provide a high standard of service”. This is too subjective and very difficult to measure.

Retain: “Maintain confidentiality, exercise diligence, objectivity, and care.”

**Ethic 7:** To recognise, disclose, and actively manage conflicts of interest with the client.

Agree.

**Ethic 8:** To promote trust in the profession. Demonstrate and encourage ethical behaviour and high professional standards amongst colleagues.

Agree.

Include: All registered forestry advisors should refer to the manager of the scheme any actions by members that may bring discredit to the Forest Advisor profession.

**Ethic 9:** To keep informed of changes affecting the profession and broader developments, and keep knowledge, skills, and techniques up to date.

Agree. Continued professional development needs to be encouraged. CPD is a cornerstone of professionalism.

**Ethic 10:** To act only within your areas of expertise and competency.

Agree.

**c. Does the proposed code of ethics have the right scope? (Cover all potential activities a Forest Advisor may perform?)**

Yes.

**d. Is there anything else that should be included?**

The potential outcome(s) for breaching the Code should be included.

le: Te Uru Rakau New Zealand Forest Service (or The Manager of the Scheme) may cancel your registration, or take other appropriate actions, if there is a breach of this code of conduct.

The Code of Conduct must be enforceable or it is a waste of effort. This implies an overhead in the setting up of a structure to manage the Code. There must be a hearing, appeal and penalty process.

**e. Is the wording clear and understandable?**

Yes.

## Note on making this submission public

The FOA is happy for this submission to be made public.

For further information on this feedback please contact:



Glen Mackie  
Technical Manager  
NZ Forest Owners Association

0274 450 116  
Glen.mackie@nzfoa.org.nz