

Submission

On

The Public Works Amendment Bill

Submission to:
Transport and Infrastructure Committee, New Zealand Parliament

27 January 2026

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New Zealand Forest Owners Association

The New Zealand Forest Owners Association Incorporated (FOA) is the representative membership body for the commercial plantation forest growing industry. FOA members are responsible for the management of approximately 1.2 million hectares of Aotearoa New Zealand's plantation forests and over 70% of the annual harvest.

The forestry export sector is expected to rise to %6.3 billion in the year to 30 June 2026¹. The sector has a 12% share of rural land use and a high proportion of Māori landowners (48%). The sector contributes 1.6% of New Zealand's GDP and employs approximately 42,000 people in wood production, processing, and the wider commercial sector. Commercial forests sequester approximately half of New Zealand's carbon dioxide emissions.

General comments

We welcome the opportunity to provide feedback to the Transport and Infrastructure Committee on the Public Works Amendment Bill ("the Bill"). FOA is supportive of the overall approach of the Bill.

The processes for land acquisition appears to follow the general processes that government agencies have been implementing in recent years. The fair and relatively quicker process for acquisition is supported.

Various forest areas are located on farms which include residential houses and a diversity of businesses. It is considered that there is justification for increasing the amount of compensation for property acquired under the Public Works Act beyond what is provided for in the Bill. Our reasons for this is that the Bill reduces the rights of appeal and for some individuals there is major attachment to their land which could exceed the market value.

We would recommend that consideration be given to increasing the amount of compensation provided to land owners where land is acquired under the Public Works Act to take into account the uncertainty and disruption of having one's land taken.

Closure

We do not object to our submission being made public. We welcome the opportunity for further discussion and engagement.



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¹ [Situation and Outlook for Primary Industries December 2025](#)

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