

Dear Forest Owner

Free Webinar Series – The Harvested Wood Material Levy Vote 2024. How it affects you as a forest owner.

You are invited to join the Forest Growers Levy Trust for a series of webinars on the Levy Vote 2024 starting on Wednesday this week.

The Harvested Wood Material Levy is paid by every plantation forest owner in New Zealand when their trees are harvested.

Money raised by the levy is used to support work for the collective benefit of the industry. The levy supports research and development work, health and safety initiatives, biosecurity protection, forestry advocacy and promotion and a host of other work programs to help support forest growers and New Zealand forestry.

At present every tonne of wood harvested from a plantation forest is levied at 33c per tonne. The levy is collected at the port or sawmill and the funds and work program are managed by the Forest Growers Levy Trust (FGLT). It is proposed that the levy rate be potentially increased in the next 6-year levy term to support a larger work program and do more to invest in the future of NZ forestry and meet the new challenges facing the industry.

The industry is required by legislation to vote every 6 years to decide whether to continue with the levy and at what rate. The vote will be held from October 1 – 31st this year.

Over the past two months the Forest Growers Levy Trust (FGLT) have completed a series of regional roadshows around the country on the Levy Vote 2024. These consultation sessions are an opportunity for all potential levy payers to have their say into what happens with the levy and learn more about the referendum process.

We have been speaking to forest owners like yourselves to get feedback on the levy and discuss potential changes heading into the next 6-year period.

In person meetings are not always convenient for forest owners, and so we are now running a series of webinars to make sure every potential levy payer can have their say and vote in the October referendum. We would like to you to come along and be involved.

Levy Vote 2024 Webinar program:

- **Wednesday 3 July | 3pm - 5pm: General webinar.** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87372581433>
- **Wednesday 10 July | 3pm - 5pm: General webinar** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82708019387>
- **Wednesday 17 July | 3pm - 5pm: Environment and risk webinar** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86774117813>
- **Wednesday 21 July | 3pm - 5pm: Small-scale growers' webinar** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84877088384>
- **Wednesday 31 July | 3pm - 5pm: Research and development webinar**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86729746300>

Please choose the webinar that suits your schedule and click on the relevant link above. No RSVP is required.

Zoom links for each webinar will also be posted on the [FGLT Levy Vote 2024 website](#).

We hope you can join us. It's your levy, so make sure you have your say.

You can learn more about the levy in the brochure attached to this email or by visiting the [FGLT Levy Vote 2024 website](#) for more information.

We look forward to seeing you at the webinar series.

About the Harvested Wood Materials Levy

The Harvested Wood Materials Levy was first established in 2013 after extensive consultation with the industry. The first levy order was voted in and ran from 2013 – 2019. The industry then voted to continue the levy for another 6 years from 2019 to 2025.

The current levy order expires in November 2025, but the Ministry for Primary Industries have advised that we must complete the referendum vote by October of this year. If voted back in, the next levy order will run for another 6 years from November 2025 to November 2031.

The levy supports work for the collective benefit of New Zealand forest growers and provides funding for a work program to improve New Zealand forestry.

The work program initiatives include:

- Research and Development.
- Biosecurity and Fire Protection.
- Health and Safety (Forest Industry Safety Council).
- Forestry Promotion and Advocacy.
- Environment – Submissions to government and local councils.
- Training and Careers.
- Small and Medium Enterprises.
- Transport and Logistics.

Each of the work programs above is headed by an industry chair and is run by a committee of forestry volunteers who contribute their skills and experience. This allows for industry involvement and guidance of the levy work programs and provides an opportunity to improve collaboration and communication across the industry.

The levy focuses on industry good work for the collective benefit of NZ forest growers. Prior to the levy there was a volunteer contribution system to raise funds. This resulted in a small pool of funds to work with, focussing mainly on forestry research.

It was difficult to raise voluntary funds and there was a problem with fairness and equity, as forest owners who did not contribute to the cost of research could often benefit from the work funded by the volunteer participants.

The levy helped address this issue. Now everyone contributes and everyone can benefit. The scope of work completed for the industry has also significantly increased.

The levy has helped the industry attract a much higher level of government funding and support and has helped forestry improve its health and safety performance through the establishment of the Forest Industry Safety Council. The levy has helped achieve a transition to mechanisation of forest harvesting and produced a larger research and development program to help improve the efficiency and productivity of New Zealand forestry.

The levy has also provided resources to support New Zealand forestry with more promotion and environmental advocacy work to ensure that forest growers have fair and workable regulations. The demands on environmental regulation work have increased significantly in the past 24 months.

The levy has also been a useful tool to help create a more cohesive and well organised forestry sector, with more alignment and collaboration happening across the sector.

You can learn more about the levy in the brochure attached to this email or by visiting the [FGLT Levy Vote 2024 website](#) for more information.

We look forward to having you join us for the webinar series.

Forest Growers Levy Trust