

In the face of deforestation

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Photos by Euan Mason

What does it take to deforest? Here are some steps along the way.



STEP ONE: Begin with a semi-mature stand.



Can't hide it - Passengers on Air New Zealand get a ringside seat.



STEP THREE: Harvesting of young stands leaves plenty of slash.



STEP TWO: Harvest it.



STEP FOUR: Rake the slash, clear out the stumps and put them in heaps.



It begins to look like a seedbed (after three passes).



STEP FIVE: Mulch the remaining debris.



STEP SIX: Burn the heaps of debris, apply huge quantities of lime, sow grass (foreground), apply more fertilizer *et voila*, you have a farm?

(Then there is the fencing, machinery, yards, staff, stock, water supply, shelter, weeds, re-pasturing, maintenance fertiliser, staff housing.)

Rough cost of conversion: \$6000/ha to first sown down pasture.