



TE MAHI NGAHERE I TE AO HURIHURI – FORESTRY WORK IN THE MODERN AGE

The Forest Growers Research programme Te Mahi Ngagehere i te Ao Hurihuri – Forestry Work in the Modern Age commenced on 1 January 2019. The programme outlines a pathway for the New Zealand forest industry to develop innovative harvesting technologies in forestry automation and robotics that will address labour shortages, reduce forestry value chain costs, improve economic viability of harvesting small forests and enhance long term sustainability through reducing environmental impact and making harvesting jobs safer for workers. The programme is in its initial development stage. The Programme Governance Group had its inaugural meeting in July 2019 and work has been focussing on early stage activities such as engagement with forest management companies, promotion of the programme, and establishing project teams and work plans.

Summary of progress during this quarter

The main achievements in this programme during the period 1 July to 30 September 2019 have been:

- Governance, management and project monitoring systems have been established, including Work Plans for all early stage projects.
- Continued engagement with forestry companies to develop partnerships in specific work streams;
- Commencement of technical project planning and establishing project teams and work plans;
- Communication of the proposed projects to manufacturing partners
- Commencement of Objective 2 Human Factors of Automation
- Promotion of the programme at Forest Growers Conference, 15-16 October 2019 in Wellington.

Key highlights and achievements

The programme Te Mahi Ngagehere i te Ao Hurihuri – Forestry Work in the Modern Age, supported by innovative engineering firms and contractors throughout New Zealand, will continue the momentum achieved in forestry mechanisation, remote control and teleoperation technology achieved with the Steepland Harvesting programme to introduce automation and robotics into the New Zealand forest industry.

The goal is, by 2030 over 20% of all forest harvesting operations will be fully automated, using products developed in this programme, to achieve the vision of “No boots on the ground, no hands on the log”. Cumulative sector wide benefits will exceed \$395 million by 2030.

Investment

<i>Investment period</i>	<i>Industry contribution</i>	<i>MPI contribution</i>	<i>Total investment</i>
<i>During the Quarter</i>	\$0.544m	\$0.363m	\$0.907m
<i>Programme To Date</i>	\$0.706m	\$0.470m	\$1.176m