

# South Bay Forest Harvest Q&A

- Why does this need to happen?  
*The forest was always intended for harvest. In 2020 Council resolved to harvest the trees whilst there remained viable for sale and before they became a health and safety risk in the future. Harvest was delayed for a number of reasons including the global pandemic Covid19. The harvest has been scheduled to be undertaken ahead of the summer period 2024.*
- When is it going to happen and how long is this going to take?  
*All major work is expected to start in mid-July and to be completed by the end of October 2024 during which time there will be strict public access restrictions to the forest area.*

## **July:**

*Maintenance work will start on the existing entrance ways that enter into the forest. The SH1 shoulder will be closed during this period, with temporary traffic control in place as required. The forest area will be closed for access, however access along the walking/cycle track to Kowhai River will remain open unless sign posted otherwise.*



**Late July till end of Oct:**

Harvesting will take place. The walking track and forested area will be closed including the walking/cycle track to Kowhai River along the length of the forest edge. At times the shoulder of SH1 will be closed using Temporary Traffic Management. There will be a small period of time that Temporary Traffic Management will be in place to close both lanes of SH1 for up to 5 mins. This will be for the falling of the closest trees to the road edge and powerlines.



- Who actually owns this land?  
*The majority of the 12.6 hectares of forested area is Council managed Recreational reserve and road reserve.*
- Who will be managing the contract to harvest the forest?  
*The Marlborough Branch of Forest Management Group Ltd will manage the harvesting of South Bay Forestry. The Forest Management Group has been managing harvesting across New Zealand since 1994. A local sub-contractor will be involved with the work.*
- Will we benefit financially from harvesting?  
*The community and local businesses will benefit from the harvest. Although this is not expected to return significant revenues to Council, any potential profits from harvesting will be directed back into the reserve to help fund the restoration of the site. In addition to any potential harvest revenues, the harvest is being completed by Kaikoura locals which keeps locals employed and helps the local economy, and all suitable logs will be offered to domestic mills for processing within New Zealand.*

- **What will happen to the current tracks? Will we have access and use of the area?**  
*Post harvest the limestone walkway will be available for use. The existing entrance ways will have been upgraded for truck and trailer cartage; however, access will be aligned to suit the restoration plans of the area.*

*Access restrictions will be in place during the harvesting activities. The public are requested that they please observe these for the safety of themselves and workers on site. These restrictions will be clearly communicated on the site itself and on our Council website.*
- **How will the harvesting process impact on locals? Noise? Traffic control for trucks?**  
*General access to the forest area will be restricted during the harvest period. At certain times during the harvest period traffic management will be required on State Highway 1. Generally, work will start around 6am in the morning and will cease around 4pm, however at times activities such as maintenance and loading trucks with logs will happen outside of these work hours. It is not expected that this will be noisier than traffic along the State Highway, and the contractor appreciates the patience of the public during this period.*
- **What do you plan to do with the area once cleared?**  
*We have started a reserve management plan process to consider the long-term future of the area and area seeking community input at the moment. There will be several opportunities for the community to input their ideas for the future of this area.*
- **What will happen to the Go Kart track?**  
*The Go Kart area is a separate issue from the South Bay Forest harvest. The future of the track has not been decided on nor confirmed at this time.*
- **Who will be responsible for cleaning up the area post harvesting?**  
*Forest Management Group together with local subcontractors will be tidying the area immediately post-harvest. Ongoing maintenance of gorse and broom will be the responsibility of Council. Council has made provision for replanting the area in year 4 of the LTP if it is required.*
- **Can the area be planted with native species?**  
*Council will be looking at all options including replanting with appropriate native species for the soil and climatic conditions in the area. The need to replant the area will be dependent on both community feedback through the reserve management plan process and on the outcome of our carbon credit liabilities exemption application outcome. Provision for replanting has been made in Year 4 of the Long-Term Plan if required.*
- **Will I still be able to access the beach via the forest during the harvest period?**  
*No. Strict access restrictions will be in place from mid- July to the end of October. Due to works it will be too dangerous to enter the forest. Beach access will be available from outside of the work area. It is important that no one enters the forest and parents must ensure their children are aware of the dangers of entering the forest.*
- **What provision will be made for cyclists to still access the Kowhai Trail?**  
*The walking track and forested area will be closed including the walking/cycle track to Kowhai River. There will be no alternative offroad cycleway connection through to the Kowhai, with access limited to State Highway 1. Pedestrians are encouraged to seek alternative locations for exercise during the harvest period.*
- **What will the time of works be during the day. Will works be taking place on weekends as well?**  
*The forest area will be closed 24hrs a day 7 days a week once harvesting starts. This is because there are significant hazards that will exist onsite once harvesting has begun. Individual trees once reliant on each other for support can become unstable once the neighbouring trees are removed and can fall with no warning. Branches can be broken up in the crown and drop without prediction. In addition to this, heavy machinery and log stacks pose as a serious risk to children playing, and activities may still be occurring such as machinery maintenance and the loading of logs at various times. Forest Management Group request the public to refrain from entry during the harvesting period. All workers to the site are required to wear the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment, be suitably trained and qualified for their task and inducted into the site.*

- Can we collect firewood?  
*Collection of firewood will not be permitted from the site. Logs suitable for firewood will be commercially processed for sale. Remaining slash piles will be shredded for weed and moisture control in the area.*
- If no one is there, can I walk through for a look?  
*Unfortunately, observations will need to be from outside the restriction area. There are significant hazards within the site which have killed people and children within similar operations in the past. Please, for your own safety refrain from entering the restricted area.*