



## South Bay Forest Harvesting Starts

Site preparation works towards harvesting of Council's South Bay pine forest will commence on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November**, with the main felling of trees starting on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November**.



South Bay Forest - Harvest Area

Harvesting was originally planned to commence in August but had been delayed because an archaeological inspection unexpectedly indicated that an archaeological authority from Heritage New Zealand was required.

That authority has now been obtained, which details how operations should be conducted to minimise adverse effects on any cultural sites that will be present. That methodology includes minimising disturbance to the ground and having an archaeologist and local cultural representatives available to monitor activities.

Efforts are also being made to minimise adverse ecological effects associated with the harvest, in particular disturbance of nesting birds.

Local contractor Fissenden Brothers are conducting the harvesting work under an agreement with Tasman Forest Management Ltd, and **it is likely to take at least 6 weeks to complete the felling of the trees.**

The forest and the cycle track through it will be closed to the public during harvesting and it is essential that this closure is respected, as significant hazards are associated with both the active harvesting operations (falling trees and heavy vehicle movements) and the presence of logs and other fallen timber on the site.



Children in particular should be kept away from the forest and the surrounding area during the harvesting period.

It is hoped that to have the cycle track re-opened before the Christmas holiday period.

Final decisions have not yet been made regarding what the long-term use of the forest area will be in the future. A draft Reserve Management Plan has been prepared for the South Bay Reserve which includes the forest area, which will shortly be subject to consultation with the community.

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29/10/2024