



**BAY OF PLENTY
REGIONAL COUNCIL
TOI MOANA**

Submission Form

Send your submission to reach us by **4.00 pm on Wednesday, 18 April 2018**

Submission Number
Office use only

071

Post: The Chief Executive Bay of Plenty Regional Council PO Box 364 Whakatāne 3158	or Fax: 0800 884 882	or email: air@boprc.govt.nz
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Submitter Name: Timberlands Limited

This is a submission on **Proposed Plan Change 13 (Air Quality)** to the **Regional Natural Resources Plan**

- Timberlands **could not** gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.
- 1 The details of Timberlands' submission are in the attached table.
 - 2 Timberlands wished to be heard in support of its submission.
 - 3

Colin Maunder

18 April 2018

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SUBMISSION POINTS:

Background:

1. Timberlands Limited (TL) is a highly focused and experienced forest management company which acts on behalf of the Kaingaroa Timberlands Partnership, owner of New Zealand's largest crown jewel plantation forest, the Kaingaroa Forest estate (situated in the centre of the North Island, New Zealand).
2. TL manages the following forestry operations on an annual basis:
 - a. 189,000 ha of forest plantations (primarily *pinus radiata*);
 - b. establishment of 7,000 ha;
 - c. pruning and thinning of 11,000 ha;
 - d. harvesting and marketing in excess of 4.0 million tonnes; and
 - e. a log merchandising yard, processing 1.5 million tonnes
3. As part of its forestry operations, TL undertakes controlled burns on parts of its estate. This is a necessary and incidental part of forestry management practice.
4. TL also has dedicated fire response resources which includes 5 fire appliances, 4 fire stores, 3 lookouts, 4 dedicated fire contractors and a pool of up to 100 staff and contractor workers with fire-fighting qualifications. TL has also concluded a services agreement with Fire and Emergency New Zealand which sets out the working relationship (sharing of resources etc) with respect to rural fires inside and outside of the Kaingaroa Forest estate.
5. Where operational commitments allow, TL makes parts of the forest estate available for public access.
6. TL is a strong supporter of the domestic timber market. More than 65% of volume is sold to the local market. The allocation process begins with TL ascertaining the requirements of its domestic customers, only once production plans are in place to meet these demands does TL commit the surplus to export markets (through the Port of Tauranga).
7. TL's specific submission points are below (and are to be read as requiring any consequential amendments to the supporting policies and objectives (if need be) in order to give effect to the amendments sought).

Page No	Reference	Support/Oppose	Decision Sought	Give Reasons
6	AQ R6	Support with amendment	Retain rule with minor amendments: replace "Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977" with "Fire and Emergency New Zealand Act 2017".	The rule reflects the current practice in adjacent councils. Fire and emergency legislation has been updated.
6	AQ R8	Support with amendment	Delete (or add after) the words "nationally recognised body authorised to undertake firefighting research or training activities" and "recognised body" where they appear in the rule and insert "[or] forest management company or other organisation which holds a services agreement with Fire and Emergency New Zealand to	Some forest management companies have signed services agreements with Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) with respect to their estates. The services agreements provide for the co-ordination of fire suppression resources between the forestry company and FENZ. In order to ensure that TL has and retains fire suppression capability, the training of TL's crews is necessary. TL notes that the amendments sought would apply only to rural

			manage rural fire”.	environments.
9	AQ R15	Support with amendments below	Retain rule with minor amendments	TL considers the provisions reflect prudent management of agriculturals and their application.
10	AQ R15 (4)(a)(i)	Support with amendment	Make an exception for <i>Dothistroma pini</i> spray application notification by allowing notification by public media (i.e. newspaper) with a maximum of 20 days and minimum of 24 hours notification allowed (as currently provided for in Rule 12(d) of the Operative Regional Air Plan).	The notification requirement is not feasible or practical for the aerial application of copper for control of <i>Dothistroma pini</i> in plantation forests where up to 2,000 ha per day may be treated dependent on weather conditions. Given the size of TL’s forestry estate, and the weather dependent nature and scale of the activity, it would be impossible and impractical to notify occupiers of properties within 200m of estate in a period of 72 – 24 hours prior.
14	AQ R20(b)	Oppose	Using methyl bromide with recapture should be a controlled activity for existing port based timber export operations and activities.	To export logs and timber, many countries require them to be treated (for example, by fumigation or heat treatment) to control quarantine pests. Fumigation with methyl bromide is the main treatment option for above-deck log exports to China. Methyl bromide is the only feasible option for log exports to India. From October 2020, all methyl bromide fumigations must use recapture technology. The Ministry for Primary Industries notes that New Zealand exported \$2.2 billion worth of logs in the year to June 2016. A discretionary activity status in AQ R20(b) creates uncertainty and puts at risk significant export receipts. Amending the rule will allow the use of methyl bromide with recapture for existing timber export operations (new activities would need to obtain consent on a discretionary activity basis).
19	Definition of terms: Public Amenity Area	Support with Amendment	Amend the opening words to read: “Public amenity area means a public <u>an</u> area in <u>public ownership</u> where members....”	TL is concerned that the expansive definition of “Public Amenity Area” would capture areas on private land, for example cycleways and walking tracks in Whakarewarewa Forest, access to which is not provided as of right, but rather relies on the goodwill of TL and the Kairarua Timberlands Partnership. TL has obligations under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (and has developed management plans in accordance with the Act) regulating and addressing public access to the forest estate in relation to operational requirements (including agricultural spraying). A further layer of regulatory compliance is not necessary in TL’s view and would be an onerous obligation without any corresponding benefit (given that TL is already required to address the risks).

