

PROJECT UPDATE
June 2018

First project harvest complete: Stage One – 100 m³ logs

In May, 75 tōtara trees were harvested from a farm in Kaeo, in the Far North, using continuous cover forestry principles so that the stand is managed sustainably. This means that each tree to be extracted is selected carefully, with the health and growth potential of the remaining trees and ecosystem being carefully considered. Each tree is felled so that other trees or wild-life is not damaged and extracted so that grapple or forwarder does not need to enter the forest.



Pre-harvest karakia by Kaumatua Edward Beattie, Ngati Hine, May 2018. **Photo: Paul Quinlan**



Forwarder gathering logs after harvest. **Photo: Paul Quinlan**

Milling



Assessing logs at the Toi Ohomai training mill site for heartwood content, June 2018. **Photo: Greg Steward**

The timber was milled at Toi Ohomai Training Mill in Rotorua and then graded and stacked for traditional air-drying. Grade recoveries from both the pre-pilot and this 100 m³ harvests were viable, reducing risk in this area. In June, accelerated kiln-drying trials commenced at Scion, another part of the processing de-risking. So far, the results are promising. This accelerated drying would help with the future operation's logistics with less storage needed and more rapid time from harvest to dried timber being available. This would help address the need for continuity of supply.

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