

LONG-TERM, SYSTEM-WIDE AND INTEGRATED
CHANGE IS NEEDED IN THE FORESTRY INDUSTRY

The forestry industry is the most dangerous sector in which to work in New Zealand. The injury rate is double that of other sectors and the fatality rate is 15 times the overall rate for all sectors. This needs to change to prevent further injuries and loss of lives, and for the industry to be sustainable. The Review Panel heard a strong motivation for change from forestry workers, their supervisors and crew bosses, from forestry contractors, managers and forest owners.

There is a strong “can do” culture on the forest block. This needs to become a “can do safely” culture. All workers on the forest block need to go home to their families, whanau, friends and communities at the end of each day.

Changing the safety culture, reducing the number of serious injuries and stopping the fatalities on the forest block will require a change to the way things are done. The change must be led by forest owners and managers, by marketers, forestry contractors and crew bosses. Workers must be a part of the change process.

A Forestry Leaders Action Group and Forestry Sector Health and Safety Action Plan are necessary to drive long-term, system-wide and integrated change in the forest industry.

The Forestry Sector Health and Safety Action Plan should have a focus on delivering the recommendations from the Review.



THE REVIEW PANEL’S RECOMMENDATIONS

A summary of the Review Panel’s recommendations is provided below and shown in the diagram. For the full report, please go to www.ifsr.co.nz.

The Review Panel recommended:

- › a Forestry Leaders Action Group and Forestry Sector Health and Safety Action Plan
- › a safety charter or pledge against which organisations and individuals can be held to account into the future
- › industry leaders work to build their health and safety leadership capabilities
- › worker participation, engagement and representation frameworks are developed and implemented to give workers a voice
- › clear and consistent standards are set for things like risk identification, assessment and management, and the design, testing, modification and maintenance of equipment and machinery on the forest block
- › competency standards are put in place for high hazard and safety – critical roles on the forest block, and that the issues associated with training, supervising and assessing competency are addressed
- › an industry-led contractor certification scheme is established
- › WorkSafe New Zealand develop an enhanced approach to workplace assessments and investigations
- › the New Zealand Police and WorkSafe New Zealand work together with industry to ensure there is appropriate communication with all those impacted by a serious injury or fatality
- › that information about near-misses, serious harms and fatalities is shared in a meaningful and timely way to improve health and safety outcomes.



INDEPENDENT
FORESTRY
SAFETY REVIEW

An agenda for change in the forestry sector
October 2014

Toki pango, toki whero, ka ora tonu ai i te wao nui a Tāne
When we all pull together we will ensure the safety of
our future generations

A SAFE, SUSTAINABLE AND PROFESSIONAL FORESTRY SECTOR
BY 2017, ACHIEVED IN PARTNERSHIP BY GOVERNMENT,
INDUSTRY AND WORKERS

AN AGENDA FOR CHANGE IN THE FORESTRY SECTOR

