

A photograph of two men standing in a forest. The man on the left is wearing a blue cap and a grey shirt, looking down at something in his hands. The man on the right is wearing a red and black patterned headband and a grey shirt, looking towards the camera. The background is a dense forest of tall, thin trees.

What's happening in Tauranga

A regional perspective

Kawhia Macrocarpa

Kawhia Macrocarpa kicked off last month. We are expecting two loads a day for a couple months. Kawhia is a black sand harbour on the west coast of the North Island down the coast from Raglan. The forest is planted right on the coast. A 'shelter belt' of Macrocarpa was planted to protect the pine trees behind. The trees have since been logged (entire stand cut into pulp for OJI) and the remaining Macrocarpa is being taken out having done their job of protecting the pine trees and trapping sand to create high dunes which stops the tides from encroaching on the town. There are some very good trees in the stand which stretches several kilometres down the beach



Macs On The Right, Pine Trees For Pulp On The Left



Macrocarpa at Kawhia

Taharoa Ironsands

D11 Bulldozers at Taharoa (From Website)



Taharoa Ironsands

There is a very interesting company operating out on the west coast called Taharoa Ironsands Ltd. They take the black sand which is all over the region, push it into a huge refining plant which purifies the sand to 80% iron. The Iron is then made into a slurry and slurry pumped out via pipeline into the the ocean where large bulk vessels are filled and sail straight to China.



Taharoa Ironsands

The 4 Cat D11 bulldozers are needing more sand so we are currently in negotiations to log 23 hectares of trees which will allow some value to be recovered before the D11s arrive. We have already logged and cleared around 10 ha which was pretty stunted and gnarly given its coastal location. The site is Maori owned land and off course there are plenty of archaeological sites. The last site that was cleared of trees produced a lot of Koiwi Tangata (human bones) given it was an old battle site, so the pressure is on to clear more area to uncover more precious sand.



A white helicopter with 'HBW' on its side is parked on a grassy field. The background features a line of trees and distant mountains under a clear blue sky. The helicopter's main rotor blades are visible, and its landing gear is deployed.

Wairakei Estate

During the DD process we were driven around for an hour by Wyatt from CBRE then a helicopter picked us up and gave us the full tour of the estate.

Wairakei Estate DD

With project butterfly nearly underway we have been doing some hard yards in the DD. Wairakei Estate is a 30,000 hectare operation. You may be familiar with all the dairy conversions just north of Taupo, for sale is the forestry right on 7000ha of land which was deemed not suitable for dairy. Incredibly, included in the package is land already converted from pine trees. This land was not productive enough so is ready for planting again. The oldest trees in this package are around 6 years old so will obviously be a silvicultural operation for some time. There is some volume left in the existing forestry right which will take a few years to log then will be handed back to whoever purchases the new Forestry right. Area/volume of this scale in CNI region does not come up for sale very often, with existing roads on easy pumice country it would be a good start to project butterfly.

During the DD process we were driven around for an hour by Wyatt from CBRE then a helicopter picked us up and gave us the full tour of the estate. Roughly 80% groundbased the terrain is all the steeper siding and gully's that make hard farming and grow poor grass.



Wairakei Estate



Wairakei Estate



Wairakei Estate



Wairakei Estate



Shot from Brad
Douglas. Very first
stem pulled

Woodleigh Forest



A hauler crew is in its third week in Woodleigh. Douglas Logging made a start right at the front gate. We have a small group of settings for them to start on with proven roads for winter. If all goes to plan, we will have the front logged which will give us a sizable continuous cutover for planting next winter.

Although still in the honeymoon period, Douglas Logging have shown a very high level of professionalism. Pete and Brad Douglas have built up a large operation by being good loggers as well high performing contractors. Douglas 071 is their 8th crew. They are a northland-based company and with some key personal wishing to move home to the CNI the stars aligned and now we are clearfelling Woodleigh. Because of the scale of Douglas Logging sending a skidder down this summer should be no problem so we hop to finish off the remaining roadline.

071 has a refurbished Madil 124 swing yarder running a grapple and camera. The mobile tailhold is a Cat 330 bucket digger. This model 124 has only two guy ropes so one machine is used for guy rope anchor. A very large Cat 558 with a woodsman processing head clears the chute and processes logs. Two Cat 538 Loaders fleet and load trucks. A Tigercat LX870D arrived on Monday to join up with the 'just out of the shop' EMS modified Komatsu PC300 tether. Because of the terrain, just over half the volume in Woodleigh is/will be set up for two stage using an 8x8 truck. An extra loader and a Scania 8x8 truck will turn up when required for this volume. The gear is all new and purpose built which makes for safe high production mechanised logging.

Log Cartage is being done by several cartage contractors. Forbes and Dahm have contracted 6 loads a day combined. They are Tokoroa based contractors. The other 6 loads are being carted by Toia Logging. Beau Waters is the mastermind of this arrangement. He is a start up contractor and it is a good opportunity for him to get going and get some more trucks under his belt. CFG are currently not taking prune at Tauranga so we are looking for a home for the prune volume. It suits in a way because the cart to the port is long and trucks struggle to get two rounds, a short domestic cart is a good option for utilisation.

Woodleigh earthworks is slowly grinding to a halt. With the last of the road formation done in May there will only be road maintenance left, a big operation in itself given some of the grousers on the new crews gear...

With two very high calibre contractors now in Woodleigh, the grass seed and ink weed covering up the past, it is becoming a pleasant operation to be apart of, providing the trucking keeps up, touch wood.

Douglas Logging gear lined up waiting for the hauler to arrive at Woodleigh