

# FOA Code of Conduct

Adopted: March 10 2022

## **Purpose and Scope**

This Code of Conduct applies to all FOA members.

FOA membership is a privilege, with members expected to uphold the values and principles of the FOA, and holding to the highest standards of plantation forest management.

Membership to FOA is open to persons (including corporate and also body of persons whether corporate or un-incorporated), being forest owners, as from time to time having been accepted for membership of the Association.

Any forest owner may apply for membership which is then considered by the FOA Executive Council. Every member of the Association and their employees are bound by this Code. A breach of any of the provisions of this Code may render the member company or individual concerned liable to disciplinary action by the FOA Executive.

In addition to this Code of Conduct, members are expected to adhere to those agreements and accords which FOA has signed, and members have committed to, on behalf of all members. These codes, agreements and accords collectively uphold the shared values and principles of the Association.

## **Code of Conduct**

1.1 A member's conduct shall at all times uphold the reputation of the Association and the professionalism of the plantation forest industry and abide by all laws, statutes, regulations and rules relevant to the plantation forest industry in NZ.

1.2 Each and every member shall maintain the high standards of the profession and should refer to the Association, any act or omission of a fellow member they are aware of and which may appear to bring discredit on the Association, the forest industry or any of its members.

1.3 Every member must take all reasonable steps to uphold and promote the health and safety of people in forests and the log supply chain.

1.4 Every member shall recognise and respect the need for sustainable management of the environment and endeavour to minimise adverse environmental impacts from their forestry activities.

1.5 No member shall prepare or certify any statement which is known to be or ought to be known to be false, incorrect, misleading, deceptive or open to misconstruction

by reason of a misstatement, omission or suppression of a material fact, any deceptive act, or otherwise.

1.6 Every member must take all reasonable steps to ensure practices in work places associated with forests and forestry operations under their control or management meet or exceed minimum NZ legal requirements.

1.7 Every member must take all reasonable steps to ensure “Remuneration received for a standard work week by a worker in work places associated with forests and forestry operations under their control or management”, meets or exceeds the living wage rate.

1.8 Every member agrees to support professionalism within the industry, collaboration with other members and honesty and integrity to achieve best shared outcomes.

1.9 Every member will ensure any conflicts of interest are declared.

2.0 Every member will note the provisions of the commerce Act and similar legislation in jurisdictions to which some members may export make it illegal for companies to use their substantial market power to lessen competition in the market or for competitors to collude in a manner that may lessen competition (including the fixing of prices).

2.1 Where appropriate, members will engage positively with Mana Whenua to address local land use activities that will impact on whenua, wahitapu and culturally sensitive matters.

2.2 The Association logo may not be used without first obtaining the approval of the FOA Chief Executive.

2.3 Only the Association President, the Chief Executive and the Communication Manager may represent the Association position. They may delegate this role where appropriate.

2.4 The FOA Executive may cancel membership if there is a breach of this code of conduct.

### **Agreements and Accords:**

In addition to the general expectation of membership there are a number of agreements that cover specific management activities. Members are expected to be familiar with, and adhere to these agreements and accords, listed as follows:

[NZ Forest Accord](#) : Agreement between forestry interests and the environment and conservation organisations that made up the New Zealand Rainforest coalition.

[Eliminating Illegal Forest Products in New Zealand](#): Agreement between FOA, FFA, WPMA and six NGO's in calling on the government, importers, processors, retailers,

plantation forest managers to strongly oppose the importation and use of illegally harvested and traded forest products in New Zealand.

[Climate Change Accord](#): Agreement between FOA/FFA, the Timber Design Society and eight NGO's acknowledging the contribution of indigenous and plantation forests to mitigate climate change, which also provides a renewable, reusable and recyclable resource. The Accord endorses the principle of polluter pays.

[Log Transport Safety Accord](#): Agreement between FOA, FFA, the Road Transport Forum, the Log Transport Safety Council, the Forest Industry Safety Council and the Forest Industry Contractors Association to improve the health, safety and wellbeing of Log Transport across the industry, whilst enhancing the safety for all road users on both public and private roads.

[Memorandum of Understanding - Forestry Sector and Transpower January 2018](#): FOA, FFA and FICA signed this MOU with Transpower in May 2018 to provide a basis for an on-going relationship. The aim of the MOU is to:

- foster and strengthen a proactive and sustainable working relationship between Transpower and the Forestry Sector;
- promote safety where forestry is near Transpower's lines to ensure compliance with health and safety requirements;
- minimise the risks posed by trees to Transpower's lines and by Transpower's lines to trees; and
- improve cooperation and coordination of works to ensure both Transpower and the Forestry Sector can operate effectively together.

[Memorandum of Understanding - FOA, FFA and Federated Farmers -Published on 19 November 2013](#)

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding between the New Zealand Forest Owners Association (FOA), the New Zealand Farm Forestry Association (NZFFA) and Federated Farmers of New Zealand (Federated Farmers) is to develop general guidance to assist in managing relationships between forest owners/managers (Forest Managers) and their farming neighbours (Farmers), to promote co-operation and constructive neighbourly relations.

While this Memorandum of Understanding formalizes the relationship between the parties, the FOA, NZFFA and Federated Farmers acknowledge that it is not legally binding and has no legal effect.

It is agreed as a guiding principle that timely communication is the key to good neighbourly relations, thus enabling the parties to plan well ahead for good outcomes when dealing with operations that may impact on any party's land or business.

Principles for Commercial Plantation Forest Management in New Zealand  
Published on 06 December 1995

To promote understanding between the signatory parties with a view to New Zealand achieving environmental excellence in plantation forest management and participating as an effective advocate internationally for the sustainable management of plantation forests and the protection, preservation, and sustainable management of natural forests. These principles are complementary to the New Zealand Forest Accord (August 1991).