

A photograph of two men standing in a forest. The man on the left is wearing a blue baseball cap, sunglasses, and a grey shirt. The man on the right is wearing a red and black patterned headband and a grey shirt. They are both 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 Bell helicopter, likely a Bell 440, is parked on a grassy field. The helicopter is white with 'HBW' visible on its side. The background features a line of trees and distant mountains under a clear blue sky. The helicopter's main rotor blades are blurred, suggesting it was recently in motion or the photo was taken with a slight motion blur effect.

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



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