

OPEN

MINUTE ITEM

ATTACHMENTS

**Ordinary meeting of the
Forestry Advisory Group**

**Wednesday 27 November 2019
Commencing at 3.00p.m.
Rūma Waimārama**

**Floor 2A, Civic House
110 Trafalgar Street, Nelson**

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29 November 2019

MEMO TO: FORESTRY ADVISORY GROUP

MEMO FROM: ALEC LOUVERDIS, GROUP MANAGER INFRASTRUCTURE

SUBJECT: FIRE RISK UPDATE

Summary for Forestry Advisory Group following meeting held on 25 November 2019 with relevant parties on fire risk in Council forestry and reserves blocks leading up to summer.

In attendance were Civil Defence (Joe Kennedy), Rural Fire Office for Nelson/Tasman (Ian Reade), Paul Shattock, Ngati Koata (Margaret Soderberg) and parks staff.

Summary

1. Well established processes in place for forestry based on "Fire Prevention Guidelines for Forestry Operations" that includes:
 - a. Daily observations from lookout tower that is shared with all logging crews. Ian noted that PF Olsen well aware of guidelines and enforce them fully.
 - b. Risk colour coded – green, blue, yellow (high risk), orange (very high risk), red and purple (extreme).
 - c. Stakeholders Preparedness meetings co-ordinated by FENZ. For the last summer the meetings started in Jan 2019 and meetings for current summer will be set up depending on weather.
 - d. Whilst above guidelines are voluntary all logging companies are required to acknowledge that they abide by the guidelines as any non-compliance could result in insurance claims being rejected.
2. For non-logging crews the "Heat and Spark Hazardous Guidelines" are used. Process similar to above and communications are from FENZ via large email listing (330 plus) including NCC staff. Ian commented that provided everyone sticks to the guidelines then the risk is well managed.
 - a. Issue is with mountain bikers in general and concessionaries (but MTB very accommodating when ban in place).
 - b. For road side mowing when risk hits yellow, all mowing stops – take guidance from FENZ.
 - c. All agreed that for reserves that signage now would be good. Rosie and team to action
 - d. Noted that e-bikes are a potential high fire risk because if batteries catch fire then ability to contain the fire is very difficult especially if bikers do not adhere to signs prohibiting access and find themselves in remote areas with no ability to put the fire out.
 - e. Parks have already cut fire-breaks and will assess second round after Christmas break.
3. FENZ currently doing a partnership with TDC about fire risk on local media. NCC to explore joining.
4. All FENZ directives given under S52 of the FENZ Act 2017. Whilst Council could close reserves earlier than FENZ trigger points, they would need to use the Reserves Act, but simpler to take direction from FENZ.

Item 6: Forestry Update - Number 10: Attachment 1

5. FENZ don't enforce once they issue a directive for a ban on work (but PF Olsen on behalf of Council do undertake inspections to ensure that there are no users ignoring ban warnings). FENZ will however pursue any prosecutions if required (noting that for the Pigeon Valley fires it was the Police who took the prosecution).
6. FENZ use the Build Up Index (amount of fuel available to burn) to decide on risk. For example, a BUI of 60 represents yellow, 80 for orange etc.
 - a. Forestry trigger level is generally a BUI of 60.
 - b. For reserves the trigger is 80.
 - c. At a BUI of 100 there will be widespread closures
 - d. At a BUI of 120 everything is closed