

Our Ref DOIA 23-110  
15 February 2023

Email [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

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**Response to your official information request**

Thank you for your official information request received on 18 January 2023 for:

*"Please advise if the Riverhead Forest, Auckland is currently state owned and leased to - **Carter Holt Harvey Forests**, which purchased the cutting rights in 1990.*

*If so please provide copy of such agreement, outlining the date of expiry, terms and conditions of cutting rights.*

*If not please provide all requested above and below for the company who has the current cutting rights.*

*Please also provide a breakdown of how such funds from the rights was historically spent, or allocated by the state since 1990 and also to date.*

*Please provide a copy of the road management plan in regards to logging trucks using the local roading existing infrastructure.*

*Please provide any flooding mitigation plans and geotechnical evaluations to date.*

*Please provide any future planning documents in regards to this area and plans for further development that are either agreed or in the pipeline / draft format."*

We wish to clarify that Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand can respond questions 1 to 4 and questions 5 to 7 have been transferred to Auckland Council and Auckland Transport to answer.

**1. Please advise if the Riverhead Forest, Auckland is currently state owned and leased to - Carter Holt Harvey Forests, which purchased the cutting rights in 1990**

The Crown Forest Assets Act 1989 land was included in Ngāti Whātua ō Kaipara and Te Kawerau ā Maki Treaty Settlements and the lessors interest was transferred to Iwi on the settlement date (11 November 2015). LINZ has transferred title for the Te Kawerau portion and is in the process of transferring title for the Ngāti Whātua portion. LINZ would therefore not be able to confirm who now owns cutting rights as this is managed by the iwi owners as lessor. The land, until transferred, is held under Crown Forest Licence being Crown Forest licensed land under the Crown Forest Assets Act 1989.

The Riverhead Crown Forest Licence and maps of the parcels relating to their iwi's ownership are attached to this letter.

**2. If so please provide copy of such agreement, outlining the date of expiry, terms and conditions of cutting rights**

LINZ does not hold any agreement regarding cutting rights. Iwi will hold this, and any request for this information will need to be made to iwi.

**3. If not please provide all requested above and below for the company who has the current cutting rights. As above**

The licensee mentioned in the Crown Forest Licence (CFL) is Carter Holt Harvey Riverhead Forest Limited. On the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2005 the Riverhead Crown Forest Licence was transferred to the current licensee Matariki Forests North Island Limited, this is the latest information LINZ hold. Any cutting rights would be transferred to the current licensee and any request for this information will need to be made to iwi.

**4. Please also provide a breakdown of how such funds from the rights was historically spent or allocated by the state since 1990 and also to date.**

LINZ do not hold or receive funds for the cutting fees. LINZ also do not hold funds obtained from CFL license fees as these funds are transferred to the Crown Forest Rental Trust. The Crown Forest Rental Trust holds onto these fees as part of the treaty settlement process. On settlement day, the total amount of rental fees accumulated are then transferred to the relevant iwi.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact [ministerialsupport@linz.govt.nz](mailto:ministerialsupport@linz.govt.nz).

Please note, this response letter outlining our decision on your request, with your personal details withheld, and any attached documentation will be published on the Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand's website. This is likely to be published by 31 March 2023.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602

Yours sincerely



Matthew Bradley  
Acting Head of Crown Property