

The voting is done in March/April 2019

Closer to the time, there will be lots of publicity to make sure that eligible voters know how and when to vote. The Forest Growers Levy Trust will set up the vote on their voting website forestvoice.org.nz



The results of the levy will be available as soon as possible

The Ministry of Primary Industries is responsible for ensuring the levy vote has been conducted in line with the law. Research New Zealand has been employed as an independent body to run the referendum. The Forest Growers Levy Trust will publicise the results as soon as the result is audited and confirmed.

More information available about how your levy benefits your forests



Want more information?

Go to www.fglt.org.nz and check out more fact sheets about the levy.

For information on New Zealand legislation go to www.legislation.govt.nz and search 'Commodity Levies (Harvested Wood Material) Order 2013 (SR 2013/454)'.



Listen to our presentation

We ran regional meetings and webinars at the end of last year. You can listen to a recording of the presentation [here](#).



Put these dates in your calendar

The levy vote takes place from **15 March to 19 April 2019**.

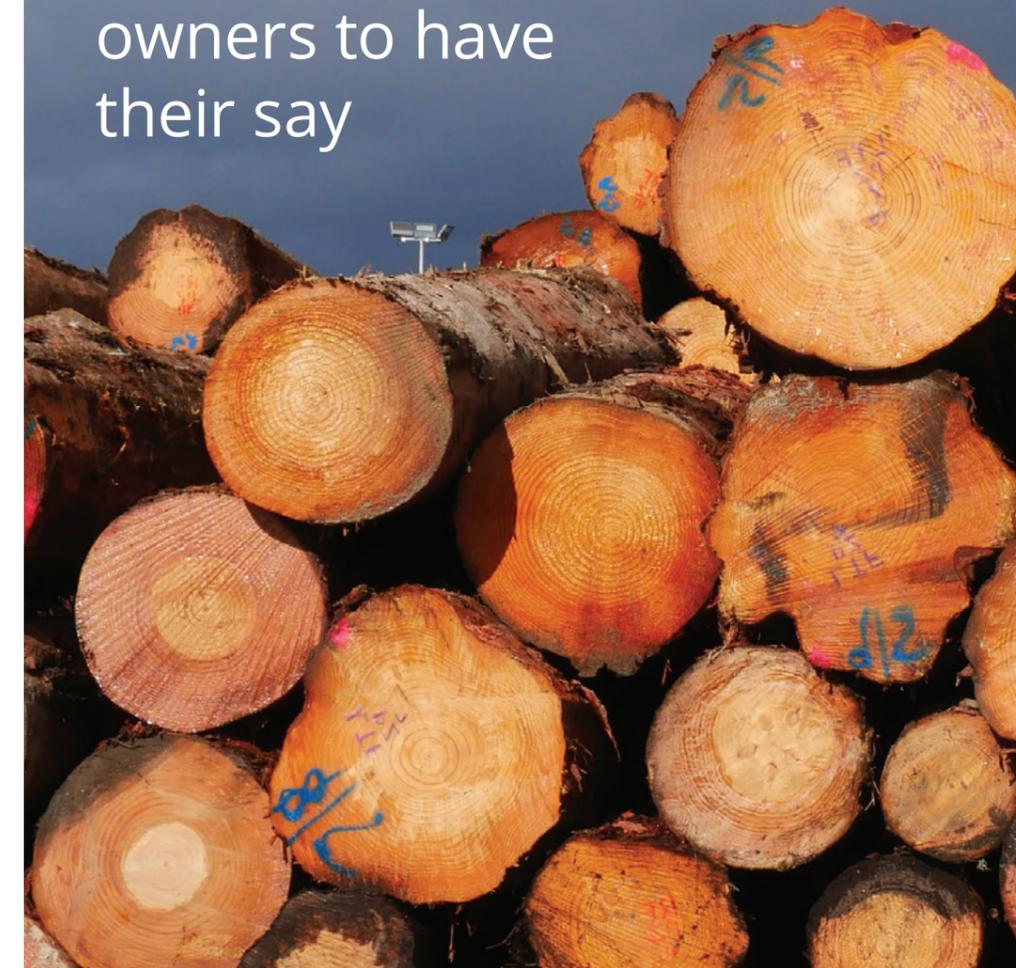


**FOREST GROWERS
LEVY VOTE 2019**

Your levy – working to support your forests

What is the levy vote?

The levy vote is a chance for forest owners to have their say



www.levyvot2019.nz

forestgrowers
levy trust inc

Every six years there is a vote on whether to continue with the levy

The first levy vote was in 2013 and set the levy for the next six years, until the end of 2019. In March/April 2019 the second levy vote will be held to set the levy for the six years from late 2019 to 2025.

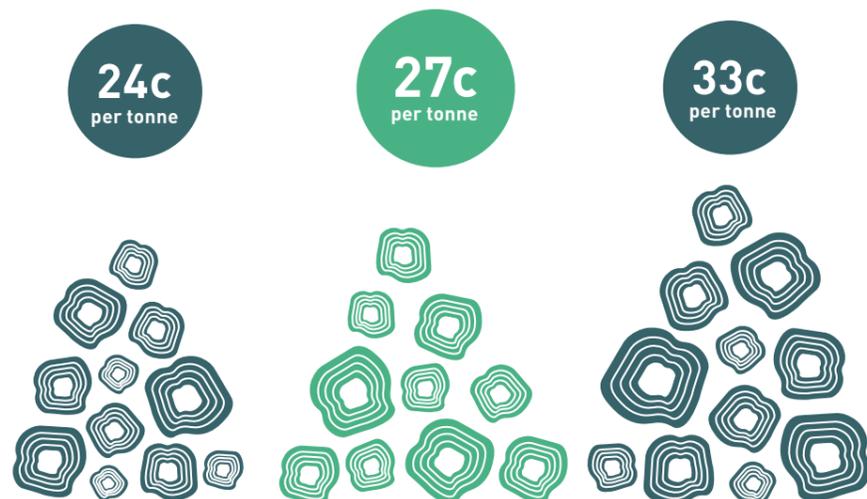


The levy was set up so everybody growing trees was contributing and getting the benefit

In 2013 large and small plantation forestry owners thought there should be a levy of all forest growers so there was a pool of funding that could be used to benefit the industry. Before that time, research or other forestry initiatives were mainly funded by members of the Forest Owners Association or the Farm Forestry Association. Forest growers who didn't belong to either of those groups didn't have to contribute funding. The government gave some funding to forestry but the general feeling was the industry itself should step up and play a bigger role in setting the direction of forestry in New Zealand.

The vote decides whether the levy will continue and what range it should be

In the levy vote to be held in March/April 2019, voters will be asked if they want the levy to continue for another six years, and approve what range the levy should be set at. The levy is proposed in a range between 24 and 33 cents per tonne of harvested wood, and it is currently set at 27 cents per tonne. This raises about \$9 million each year that is spent on activities to benefit the industry.



The levy is set within a range.

All forest owners who will harvest trees in the next six years can vote

It doesn't matter whether you are a big grower of trees, or a small grower – perhaps a farmer with just some of your property in trees. All forest growers who will be harvesting trees within the life of the levy are eligible to vote. This means that any forest growers who will be harvesting trees from late 2019 to 2025 – the life span of the next levy – are eligible to vote.

Who can vote in the 2019 referendum?

Anyone who potentially will pay the levy during the six-year life of the next Levy Order (late 2019 – 2025) will be entitled to vote. Forest owners who will not be liable to pay the levy will not be eligible to vote. Each forest owner who owns a Qualifying Forest will be eligible to vote. There is one vote per forest owner regardless of the form of that ownership or the number of forests held by that owner.

A Qualifying Forest is a forest that has a Stand or Stands of trees of 10 years or more in age (or, for the purposes of this election, planted before 1 December 2008) totalling at least four hectares in area.

A Stand means a contiguous area that contains a number of trees that are relatively homogenous and have a common set of characteristics, normally managed as a single unit. This definition applies to all species, wildings, and regeneration of a planted stand of trees grown for eventual harvest, but excludes Christmas trees and trees grown for domestic firewood.

The forest age restriction is designed to ensure that everyone who is growing trees which might be harvested and sold in the 6-year levy period has the right to vote. It is assumed that the earliest a tree may be harvested is at age 16 via a production thinning.

Forest owners who will not be liable to pay the levy will not be eligible to nominate board members, or vote in the Board election.

You don't have to belong to one of the forestry organisations to vote

Any forest grower who is going to harvest their trees within the life of the levy is eligible to vote.

The Forest Owners Association represents many of the big corporate forest growers in New Zealand and will make sure that its members know about the levy vote.

The Farm Forestry Association represents smaller growers and will get information about the vote to its 2000 members through its 32 branches throughout New Zealand.

But many forest growers don't belong to an industry group. The Forest Growers Levy Trust is running a campaign to make sure as many forest growers as possible know that they can have their say in the levy vote next March/April.

If you know people who are growing trees for harvest, tell them about the levy vote that's coming up next March/April.

The levy vote has a safeguard so it is fair to small and large forest growers

The outcome of the vote depends on both the number of voters in favour, and the volume of the forests they control.

When forest growers vote on the levy, in March/April 2019, more than half the votes cast have to be in favour if the levy is to continue and the "yes" votes have to represent more than half the total hectares of the forests.

This means that the vote can't be swayed by just a few large forest owners, or by a large number of small growers who have very few trees overall.

The result depends on most growers, representing the majority of forestry, being in favour. One of the reasons the levy was introduced in the first place was to ensure the forestry industry was cohesive – the way the levy vote is structured reinforces the fact that the levy is working for everybody.



NEW ZEALAND HAS ABOUT

14,000 FOREST GROWERS

