



# REMOTEHQ

SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY

RemoteHQ is a novel software solution that creates national consistency under the NES-PF and promotes sustainable forest harvesting in New Zealand. It provides better access and transparency of public data and helps manage the impacts of our changing climate, throughout the post harvest window of vulnerability phase.





## The Software

The team at GeoInsight ([www.geoinsight.co.nz](http://www.geoinsight.co.nz)) have developed a new approach to forest monitoring through publicly available software called RemoteHQ ([www.remotehq.co.nz](http://www.remotehq.co.nz)). Designed to help streamline and manage forestry activities under the National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry (NES-PF). It provides better access to public data to help Local Government limit the environmental effects of forest harvesting in New Zealand.

## The Purpose

A lot of New Zealand's forested land is situated on steep, highly erodible soils. After harvest, forestry blocks become exposed to the elements and intense storm events can cause an increase in erosion and sedimentation if they are not adequately managed. This is leading to major damage to our freshwater environment, people and properties. In 2018, the NES-PF came into effect and now regulatory bodies have a need for better tools to manage the end to end process once a notification of forestry activity is received.

RemoteHQ is designed to reduce the effects of forest harvesting and aims to oversee forestry blocks through the "window of vulnerability" phase post-harvest. This phase is the period of elevated risk when erosion typically occurs, 6-8 years after harvest when the canopy cover has been removed and before the next crop has stabilised the soil.

## The Method

NES-PF notifications are administered and managed through RemoteHQ. Forest notifications are standardised for a nationally consistent map view of activities occurring in each region. Council staff check and approve the plans and the forest activity is good to go.

GeoInsight undertake "Forest Assessments" as the initial monitoring visit when harvesting is complete in a block. In field data is captured utilising innovative technologies which is later processed into RemoteHQ. GeoInsight's forest monitoring expertise and GIS smarts are combined to identify areas of excellence, concern and failure in RemoteHQ. The public can view this information and Council staff use RemoteHQ to generate monitoring reports and communicate remedial works to forest managers and landowners.

RemoteHQ provides people with a multidimensional perspective into harvested land and identifies potential problems that may lead to erosion and sedimentation so they can be addressed **before** they occur.