REMOTEHQ
SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY

RemoteHQ (remotehq.co.nz) is a novel software platform 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.

GeoInsight

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The Platform

The team at GeoInsight (geoinsight.co.nz) have developed a new approach to forest monitoring through a publicly available platform called RemoteHQ (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 online through the cloud based RemoteHQ platform. Each notification is standardised by the GeoInsight team for a nationally consistent map view of activities occurring in each region.

Council monitoring staff use the RemoteHQ App when undertaking forest inspections to capture areas of excellence, concern and failure. This in field data capture syncs into the RemoteHQ platform and GIS smarts are combined to identify any areas at risk. Council staff then use the reporting tool in RemoteHQ under a private and secure login to generate monitoring reports. These reports and the platform are used to communicate remedial tasks to forest managers and landowners.

RemoteHQ provides users and the public 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.