Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua

# Plantation Forestry NES

2018 Forest Industry Workshops


www.mpi.govt.nz

# You'll leave today with a better understanding of

1. Why have an NES-PF
2. What it is
3. How it works
4. What it means for you
5. What you need to do
6. Who to ask if you get stuck

# We Will Cover

Why have it?

How it works:

1. Activities it covers
2. Risk tools
3. Management plans
4. Forest Practice Guides
5. Consents

# Why have it? What is it meant to do?

**Better protect the environment**
**While also improving the productivity of the forestry sector**

**By applying consistent environmental standards**
**to reduce operational costs**

# Its roots go back a long way

**2018** May 1st it commences!

**2017** August 3rd gazetted

**2015** public consultation - 3rd round …

**2012** MPI picked it up

**2009** NESPF underway at MfE

**2008** FOA/FFA expressed frustrations with RMA to ministers

# NESPF – Implications for Councils

## REDUCED RULE-MAKING JURISDICTION

1. NES-PF replaces most regional and district plan rules that apply to plantation forestry.
2. NES-PF removes council's authority to create and impose forestry specific rules.
3. NES-PF reduces the cost of regional and district plan development and litigation.

**EXCEPTIONS**

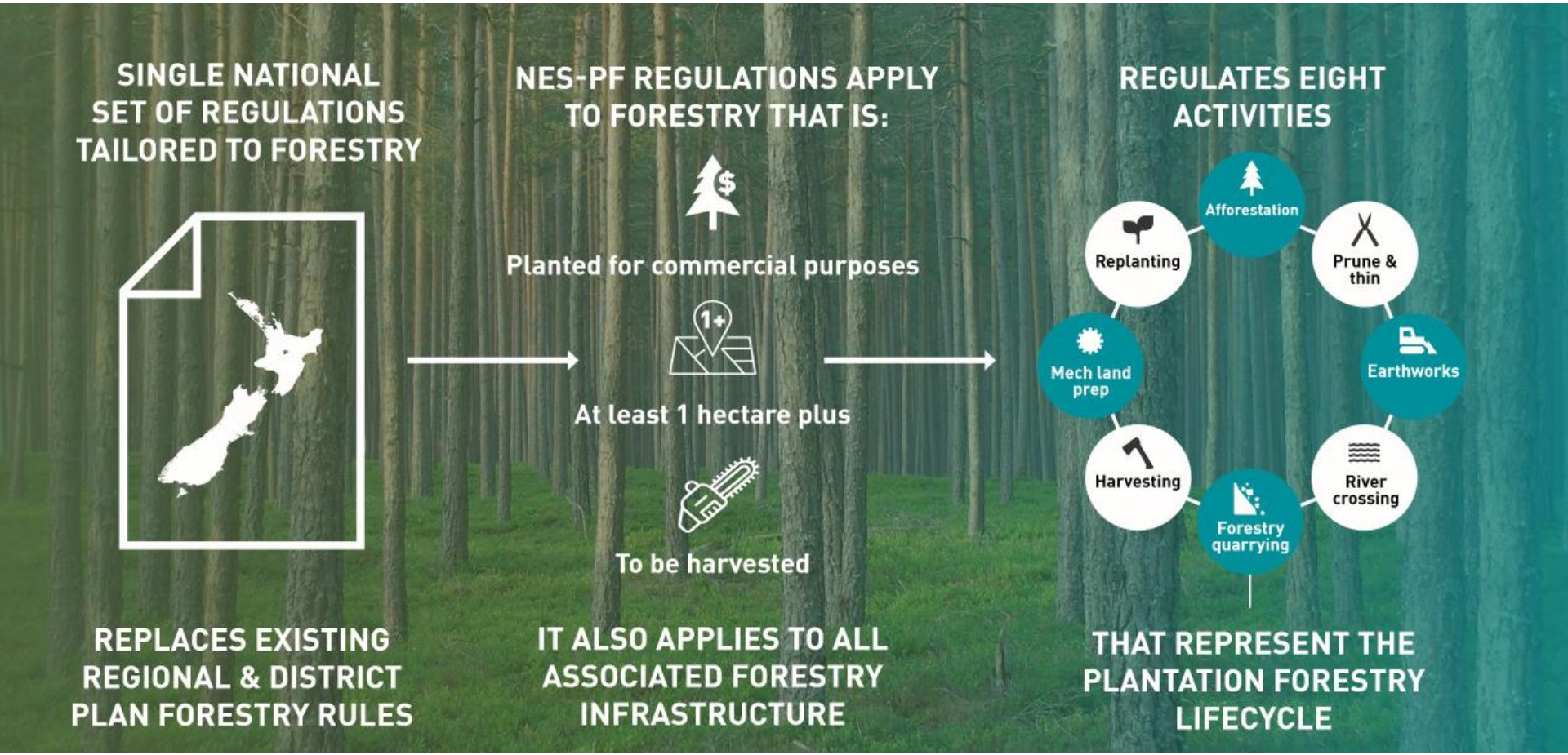
Limited authority to have more stringent rules

+

Retain authority to regulate matters not covered by NES-PF

**NOTE**: There will be some initial plan alignment costs

# What is the NES Plantation Forestry?



# NESPF Structure

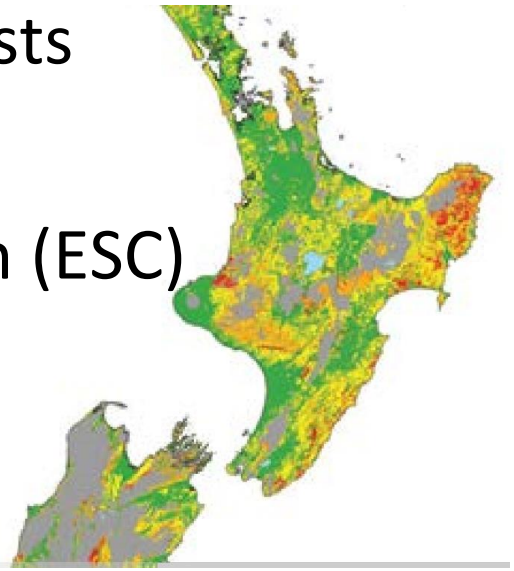
- Set out as the 8 main forestry activities
- + ancillary activities
- Rules drawn from existing plans and consents
- Pitched so that low risk activity is permitted
  - provided conditions are met
- Requires interaction with council even for permitted activities

# How the NESPF Works - Activities

| Activities + | Ancillary activities | + General requirements |
|---|---|---|
| Afforestation | | Discharge, dam, divert |
| Prune and Thin | Slash traps | Noise, vibration |
| Earthworks | | Dust |
| River Crossings | Indig veg clearance | Indigenous bird nesting |
| Forestry Quarrying | | Fuel |
| Harvesting | Other veg clearance | |
| Mechanical land prep | | |
| Replanting | | |

# How the NESPF Works – Risk

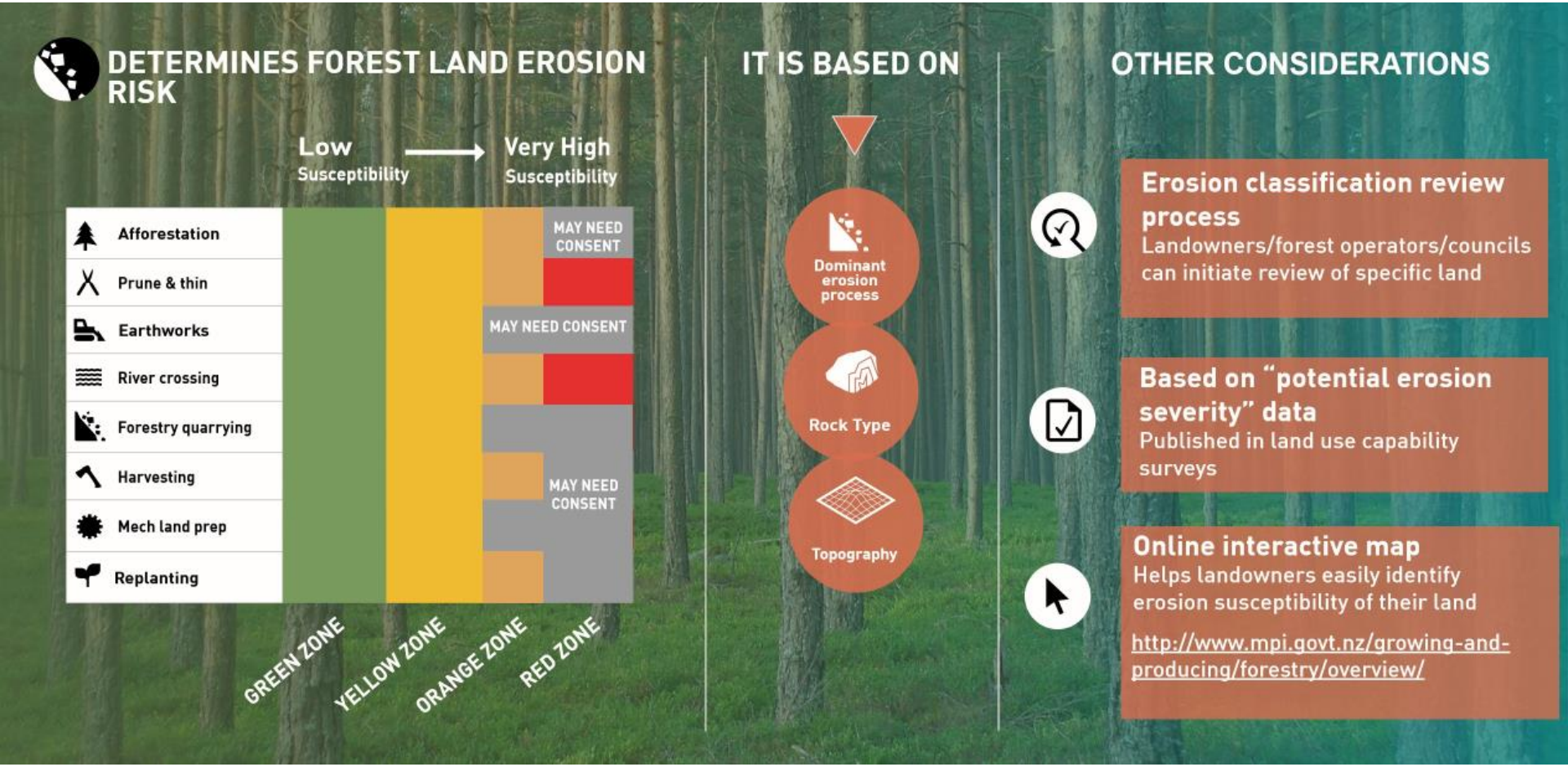
- Rule status triggered by threshold tests
- Thresholds set by:
  - Erosion Susceptibility Classification (ESC)
  - Fish Spawning Indicator
  - Wilding tree risk calculator
- Higher risk activities have conditions



# How the NES-PF works - Thresholds

| | First threshold | | Second threshold | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Activity | Site risk | Measureable limits | | |
| Afforestation | ESC | - | wildings | setbacks |
| Pruning and thinning | - | - | setbacks | |
| Earthworks | ESC | Volume/area | Sediment/fish | setbacks |
| River crossings | - | Flow rate | erosion/ sediment/fish | By crossing type |
| Forest quarrying | ESC | Volume/area | erosion/sediment/ fish | |
| Harvesting | ESC | - | Sediment/fish | setbacks |
| Mechanical land prep | ESC | - | Sediment/fish | setbacks |
| Replanting | ESC | - | wildings | setbacks |
| Ancillary activities | - | Area | | |
| General provisions | - | ✓ (reg 93) | | |

# Erosion Susceptibility Classification Tool

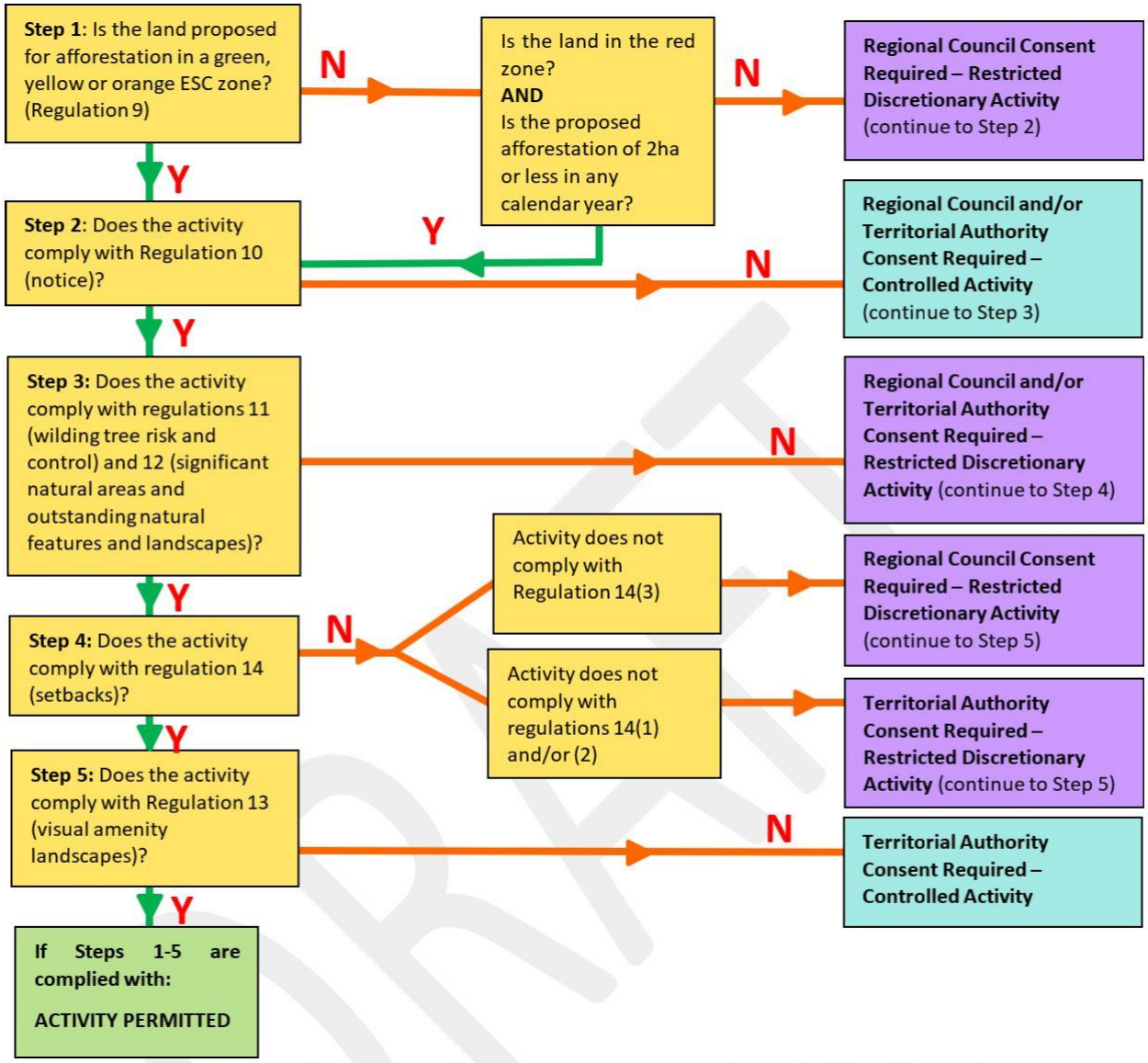


# Rule Types

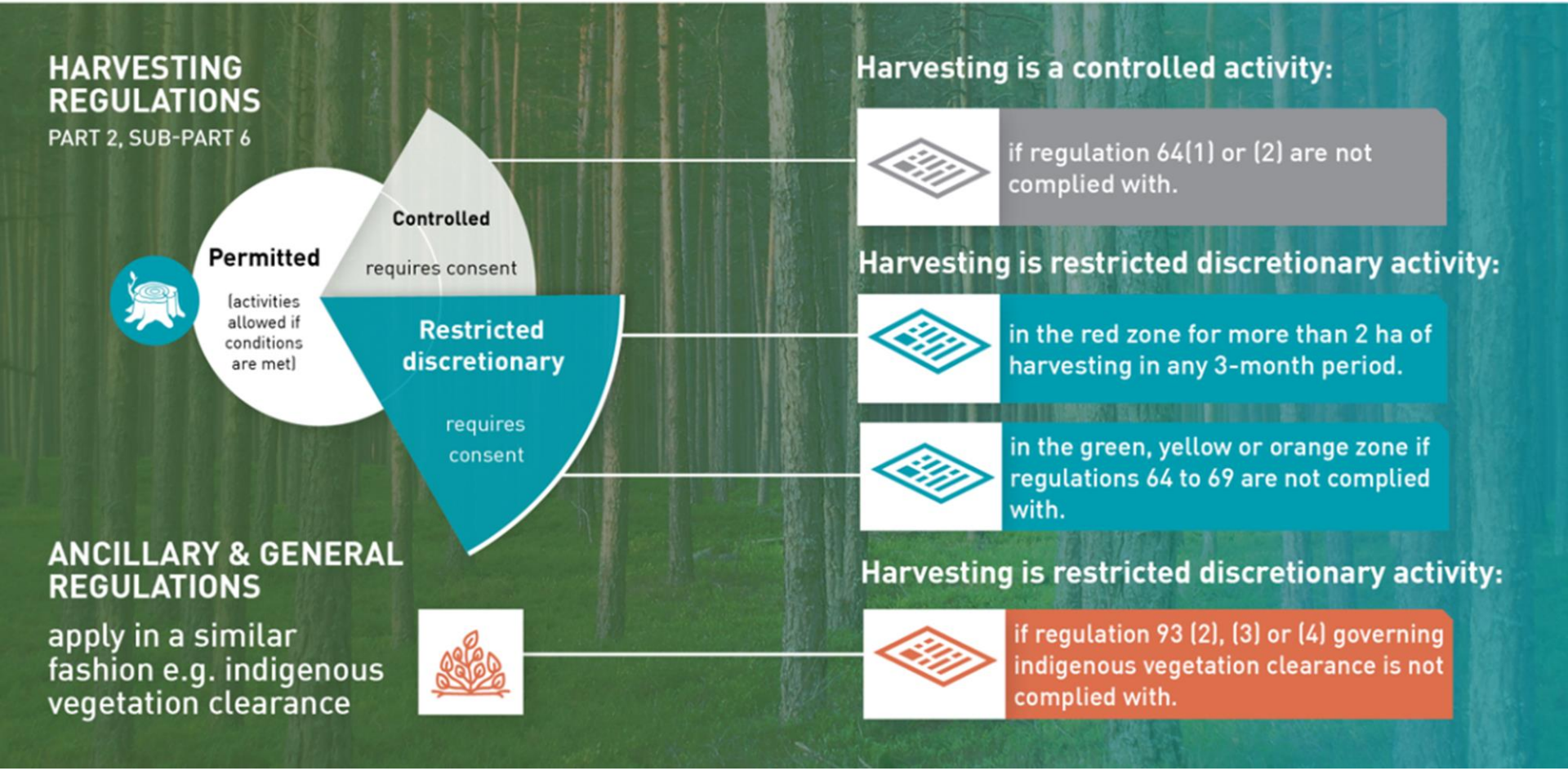
- Permitted - *with conditions*
- Consents
  - Controlled
  - Restricted Discretionary

## Consents – do you need one?

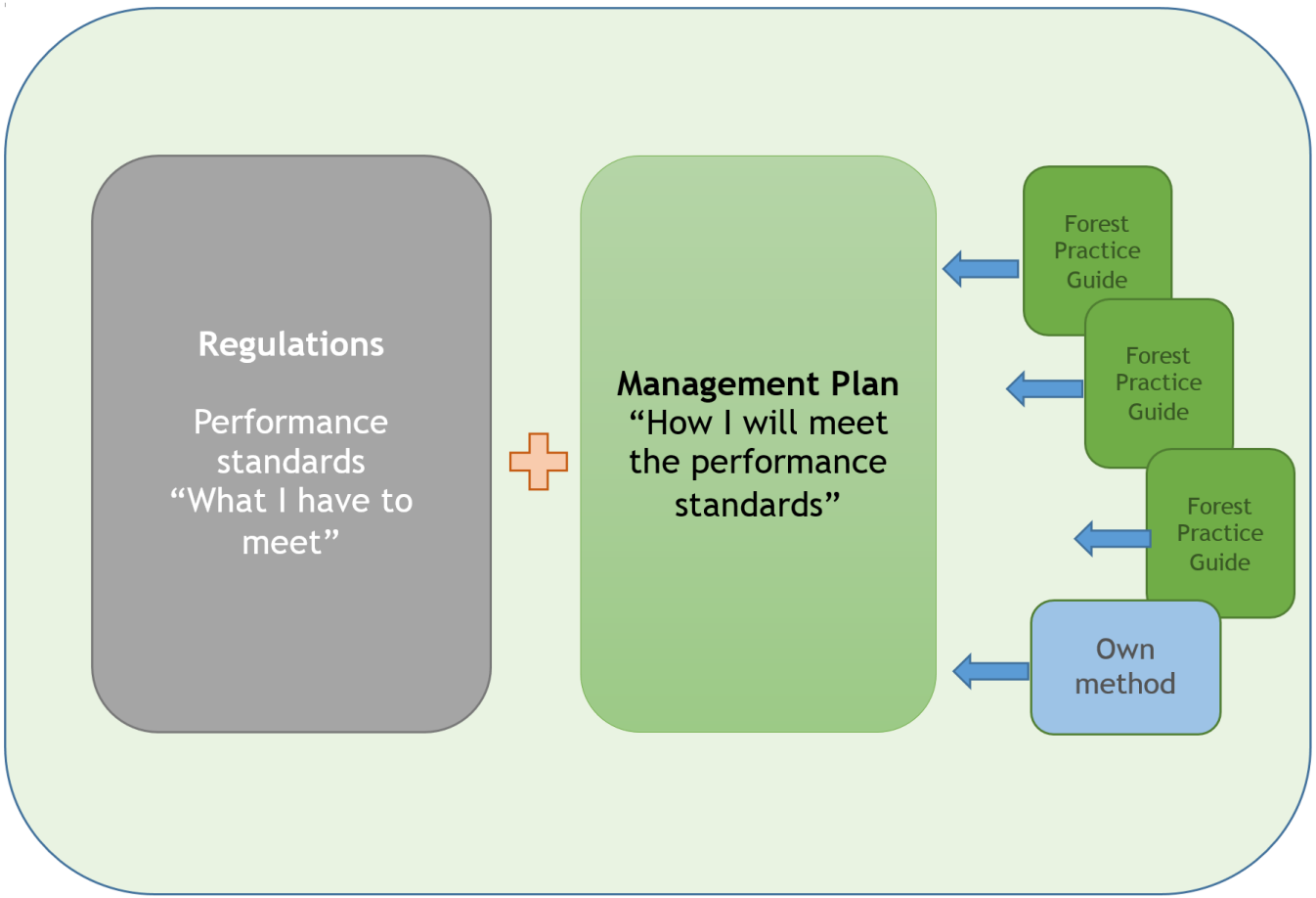
- Check the regs
- If in doubt, check with council


Step 1: Is the land proposed for afforestation in a green, yellow or orange ESC zone? (Regulation 9)
N
Is the land in the red zone?
AND
Is the proposed afforestation of 2ha or less in any calendar year?
N
Regional Council Consent Required – Restricted Discretionary Activity (continue to Step 2)
Y
Step 2: Does the activity comply with Regulation 10 (notice)?
Y
N
Regional Council and/or Territorial Authority Consent Required – Controlled Activity (continue to Step 3)
Y
Step 3: Does the activity comply with regulations 11 (wilding tree risk and control) and 12 (significant natural areas and outstanding natural features and landscapes)?
N
Regional Council and/or Territorial Authority Consent Required – Restricted Discretionary Activity (continue to Step 4)
Y
Step 4: Does the activity comply with regulation 14 (setbacks)?
N
Activity does not comply with Regulation 14(3)
Regional Council Consent Required – Restricted Discretionary Activity (continue to Step 5)
Activity does not comply with regulations 14(1) and/or (2)
Territorial Authority Consent Required – Restricted Discretionary Activity (continue to Step 5)
Y
Step 5: Does the activity comply with Regulation 13 (visual amenity landscapes)?
N
Territorial Authority Consent Required – Controlled Activity
Y
If Steps 1-5 are complied with:
ACTIVITY PERMITTED

# Consents – A Harvesting Example



# Management Plans



# Management Plans - Purpose

- Provide certainty to council that all risk aspects are covered and explains how risks will be managed
- Provide flexibility to forester for how they manage the site risk
  - Demonstrate site knowledge
  - Have a process to identify risks
  - Explain how the risks will be managed
- Plans should be proportional to the complexity of the operation and risks of the site.

# Management plans

- Required for:
  - Forestry earthworks
  - Harvesting
  - Quarry erosion and sediment
- Foresters must prepare them

  >20 working days before ops start
- Must inform council of them at time of giving notice of operations
- Councils can ask for them but don’t have to
- Give council notice of “material amendments”

# Mgmt Plan content –
# 1. Identify people involved and site

**Person and property details**
(a) date
(b) – (e) people responsible - land owner/agent/forest owner and harvest and earthworks managers
(f) – (i) = location - Region and district, access road used, forest name, map references.

**Map** - scale not less than 1:10 000
(c) Harvest area boundary
(d) External property boundaries within 200 m of the activity area
(e) Contour lines
(f) Erosion susceptibility classification
(g) Proposed harvesting method and extraction directions
(h) Proposed forestry road locations, and landing or skid locations

# Management Plans
# 2. Identify Site Risks

***Water on site***

location of:

- Water bodies and the sea
- Any setbacks.

***Downstream risks***

location of:

- public roads/ other infrastructure:
- downstream properties and waterbodies
- registered drinking water supply (> 25 people within 1 km downstream)

***On-site risks***

location of:

- features to protect during the operation, e.g. SNAs

***Forestry infrastructure***

location of:

- existing roads, tracks, landings, firebreaks, and river crossings
- proposed new roads, tracks, landings, firebreaks, river crossings (permanent and temporary), and fuel storage and refuelling sites
- proposed end-haul deposit sites
- slash storage areas

# Management Plan – Explain How Site Risks Will Be Managed

**Earthworks management plan**

- describe scope of work and purpose
- indicate construction time

**Describe the management practices**

- water run-off control
- sediment control
- managing excess fill and spoil
- methods to stabilise batters, side cast, and cut and fill
- post-harvest remedial work (timing and methods)

**Harvest plan**

- Describe harvest method - ground-based, hauler and type
- timing, duration, intensity, and any staging

**Describe management practices used** for—

- avoiding slash instability at landings
- no-slash zones
- slash management near waterways
- measures to stop slash mobilisation in heavy rain events and contingency plans

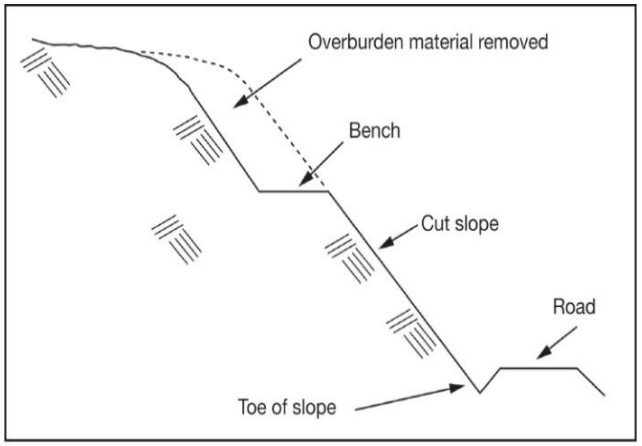
**any operational restrictions** to—

- minimise damage to indigenous vegetation
- avoid damage to downstream and adjacent infrastructure and properties

# Forest Practice Guides - Purpose

- Outline good forest practice
- Help with producing management plans
- Convenient for both foresters and council
- Not compulsory

# Forest Practice Guides - Topics




| FPG topic areas |
| --- |
| Earthworks - engineering |
| Vegetative methods to stabilise bare earth |
| Erosion and sediment controls<br>- water table and water table outlet controls |
| Waterway crossings |
| Earthworks - tracking |
| Slash management |
| Felling management |
| Post-harvest rehabilitation |
| Land preparation |

# Forest Practice Guides - Content

- Explanation
- Where and when to use
- Situations to avoid using
- Design
- Construction
- Maintenance
- Alternatives

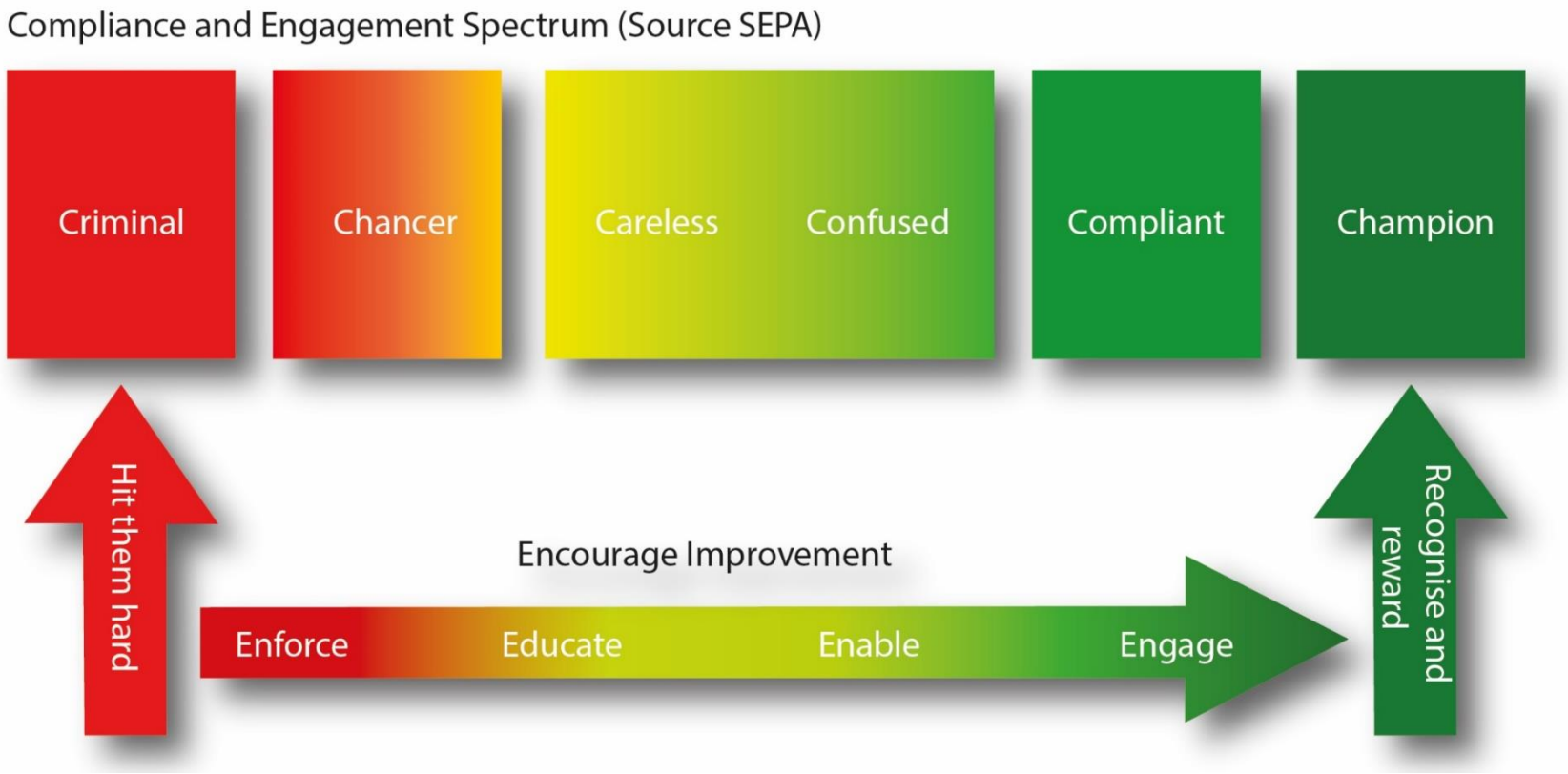
# Existing Consents and Use Rights

- NESPF and existing consents
  - Consents granted under a district plan
  - Coastal, water or discharge permits
  - Regional land use consents
- NESPF and notifications after 3 August 2017
- Existing use rights
  - Land use under district plans
  - Activities under regional plans

# New Consents

- New
  - Consents take time to prepare and process
  - Council may request more information
  - Contact council if you are unsure
  - Lodge March
  - Suggest prepare consents now

# Compliance


Compliance and Engagement Spectrum (Source SEPA)
Criminal
Chancer
Careless
Confused
Compliant
Champion
Hit them hard
Encourage Improvement
Enforce
Educate
Enable
Engage
Recognise and reward

# Homework - to be ready for 1 May

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.

# Homework - to be ready for 1 May

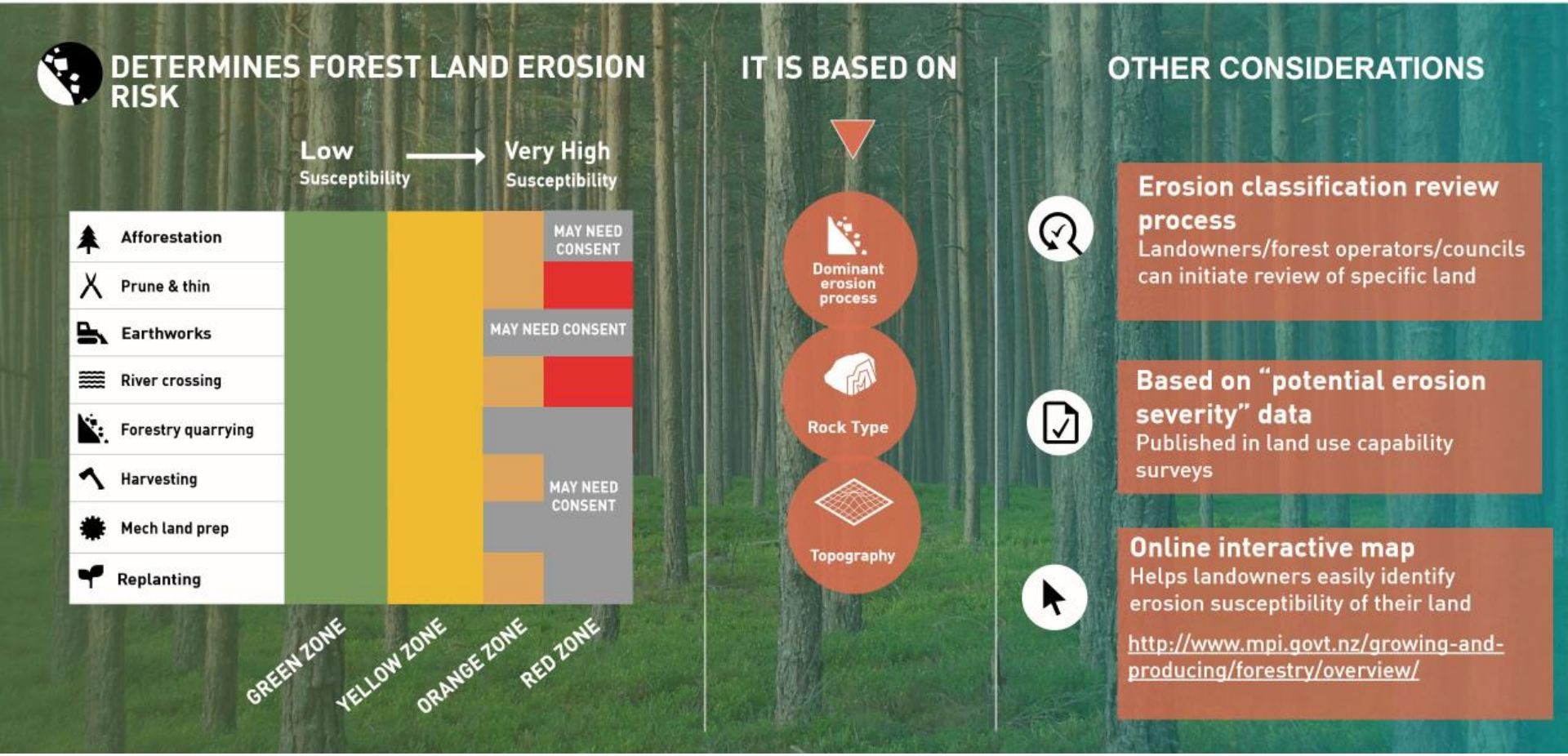
1. Sort out which operations will need to give notice to council or need consents
2. Check existing consents are sorted
3. Revise your systems
   - Figure out what you'd add to harvest plans to cover the management plan contents
   - Set up a process to streamline giving notice and preparing plans
4. Join an established forestry network
5. Make sure everyone in your team knows what is going to happen
6. Get any consents in

# More Information

- Visit the MPI website – search NES PF
- Email info@mpi.govt.nz  subject line: NES-PF
- Other engagement opportunities e.g. NZIF
- Information is coming:
  - User guide
  - Consents and compliance guide

# Risk Assessment Tools

# EROSION SUSCEPTIBILITY CLASSIFICATION TOOL



# FISH SPAWNING INDICATOR TOOL

## A CONSISTENT APPROACH

To manage forestry activity effects on sensitive freshwater fish species present in rivers, lakes and wetlands

## WHILE ACCOUNTING FOR LOCALISED VARIATION

In terms of: fish species, latitude, altitude & climatic conditions

## TAKES TARGETED APPROACH THAT RECOGNISES & INDICATES

- The 33 fish species sensitive to forest activities
- When these fish are spawning
- Where these fish are spawning

## REQUIRES CONSENT

for activities that disturb spawning habitats during spawning times

## BASED ON BEST SCIENTIFIC DATA

In terms of variables relevant to ascertaining risk

Mostly restricts applicable activities during:

May – June + Sep – Oct

## ONLINE INTERACTIVE MAP

Lets landowners identify fish species present in streams / rivers on their property

# WILDING TREE RISK CALCULATOR

## A CONSISTENT APPROACH

To managing the wilding conifer spread risk associated with planting

This is important because unmanaged spread can adversely affect:

- Landscape values
- Conservation values
- Land uses
- Hydrology

## HOW IT WORKS?

Calculator determines wilding conifer risk of planting at a given site using

**With a better understanding of**

**6 RISK INDICATORS**

Points assigned to each indicator - if the score is 12 or higher consent is required

This tool supports the "National Wilding Control Programme"

1. Spread vigour of the tree species
2. Palatability of tree species to livestock
3. Topographical placement of the site to be planted
4. Land-use characteristics of planted land
5. Surrounding vegetation
6. Wind conditions

# You're leaving today knowing:

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