**Feedback on Proposed Changes to the Field Measurement Approach (FMA)**

MPI would like to hear your views on the proposed changes to the FMA, especially on:

1. Whether the proposed changes will significantly affect your collection of field data (including time/cost)?
2. Whether you consider the changes to be beneficial or not?
3. The proposed changes are intended to make MPI processing times faster, and carbon calculation more accurate – are processing times and/or carbon stock calculation accuracy a concern for you?

All other comments on the proposed changes are also welcome.

**Please email comments using the form below to** **climatechange@mpi.govt.nz** **by 5pm Monday 11 May if you would like to provide feedback.**

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| **Feedback on Proposed Changes to the FMA** |
| 1. ***Sampling tree heights***

Increase the minimum number of trees to be measured for height in a permanent sample plot from 5 to 10 (with proportionally less in sub-plots). ***Comment:*** |
| 1. ***Predominant species where species and/or ages are mixed***

In the relatively uncommon situation in which:1. there are trees of mixed Species Groups and/or age in a sample plot, sub-plot or sub-sample; and
2. the intended predominant species is not the actual predominant species at the time of measurement

then record the information on tree species, stocking and age (which was formerly collected only for the intended predominant species) also for the actual predominant species at the time of measurement.***Comment:*** |
| 1. ***Recording the stocking of small trees***

When the stocking of trees is determined, restrict the count of small trees of DBH less than 25 mm to those that are live with a height of greater than 300 mm.***Comment:*** |
| 1. ***Reasons that trees may be absent***

Change one of the reasons that trees may be absent from a sample plot or sub-plots from “Trees below stem diameter threshold” to “Trees below stem diameter or height thresholds”.***Comment:*** |
| 1. ***Information only required for live shrubs or small trees***

Clarify that when collecting FMA information for shrubs, or for small trees with DBH less than 25 mm, information is only required for live shrubs or trees.***Comment:*** |
| 1. ***Estimating the age of shrubs when no trees are present***

If shrubs are present in a sample plot or sub-plot but there are no trees, provide an estimate of the date of first regeneration (i.e. the oldest age) of the shrubs. ***Comment:*** |
| 1. ***Estimating the age of shrubs when it is significantly different to the tree age***

If the shrubs in a sample plot or sub-plot established significantly before or after any trees present, provide an estimate of the date of first regeneration (i.e. oldest age) of the shrubs. ***Comment:*** |
| 1. ***Collecting information for shrubs and small trees***

For consistency, if collecting FMA information for shrubs, information for small trees must also be collected.***Comment:*** |
| 1. ***Cabbage trees and nikau palms***

If cabbage trees or nikau palms are present, their height must always be measured.***Comment:*** |
| 1. ***Plot relocation if old regenerating trees are present***

Introduce a new plot relocation reason in Part 3 of the FMA Standard entitled “Old trees present”, that allows plots to be relocated to exclude any regenerating trees within the plot perimeter that were likely to have been present before the change in land management that initiated the conversion of the area to forest land from land that was not forest land. The existing plot relocation rules/procedure will apply. ***Comment:*** |
| 1. ***Recording the Species Group when trees are absent***

If trees are absent from a sample plot or sub-plot, record the Species Group of the trees expected to be present in the future (if any), or in the surrounding area if the plot or sub-plot falls within a gap in the forest. ***Comment:*** |
| 1. ***Where the intended predominant species is not the actual predominant species***

In the relatively uncommon situation in which the intended predominant species is not the actual predominant species at the time of measurement, and the trees that are the intended predominant species have been planted during more than a single year – clarify that FMA information is collected for the oldest planted trees only, including for silvicultural and adverse event information.***Comment:*** |
| 1. ***Minor editorial changes***

*Reason:* to improve clarity and consistency, and for avoidance of doubt, in relation to collecting FMA information for trees and shrubs. This will include introducing formal definitions for “intermingled trees”, and “intended predominant species” – these terms are presently used, but only defined through context.***Comment:*** |
| 1. ***Any Other Comments on Proposed Changes:***
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