

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2024 4:06 PM

To: Ben Smit <ben.smit@waitomo.govt.nz>

Subject: Submission in regard to proposed increase in district roading rates for forestry ownership.

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Hello Ben,

As discussed recently with you by phone I believe the proposed plan is flawed for the following reasons:

- On average it takes 25 years for forestry to mature. During those 25 years there is no damage to roads. To increase rates over a 25-year period in anticipation of harvest and subsequent road usage is forward loading. It would be more reasonable to apply a charge per kilometer of road use at the time of harvest. Logging trucks keep a record of kilometers travelled and it would be straight forward for this to be made available to council as part of consent to use local roads.

-for small woodlot ownership (30 hect) or less there is generally no income from that venture before harvest. An increase in road usage tax as proposed is only going to discourage small investors in woodlots at a time when we need trees to help combat global warming.

-There are investors in forestry/woodlots who are farming carbon under ETS. Those trees are not pruned and thinned rendering the timber without any real value. It is not simply a matter of harvesting those trees for timber if the ETS is terminated. My point is forestry for ETS will not have logging truck involvement so why should there be an increase in road tax for that sector.

I understand the council needs money for roads and a range of tasks but the perception that logging trucks are doing the damage is misleading. As already stated, it takes 25 years for trees to become suitable for harvest. During that 25 years there are no logging trucks on the road. Other forms of farming and general road use would damage roads throughout that 25-year period.

Regards,
Carl Dibble

Ph [REDACTED]