

INTRODUCTION



Photo Credit: Brook Sabin

Forestry is a significant contributor and employer in the region. Approximately 80 percent of the forestry workers identify as Māori and the majority are working in entry level roles. Tūranga Ararau’s diploma will provide a unique response, led by, and responding to, Iwi and the wider forestry industry needs and aspirations. There are no other existing or planned initiatives particularly with such a strong cultural foundation.

Tūranga Ararau is the Iwi Tertiary Education provider of Te Rūnanga o Tūrangānui ā Kiwa. It provides and promotes the skills, knowledge and qualifications to enable Iwi to manage, advance, and control their cultural and economic resources. This includes the land, forests, sea, and most importantly - their people.

Currently there is a lack of forestry training offered in Tairāwhiti. This affects the ability to grow existing local workers in the forestry sector, particularly into management roles. It also reduces opportunities for local residents and their whānau.

It is estimated that within less than 25 years, 80 percent of local forests will be back in Iwi ownership. Iwi want to employ their own people into high valued and highly skilled roles. Currently there are too many in entry level roles, and the region is looking at how to create development pathways to support their people to train and upskill for these future roles.

Tūranga Ararau has designed a new course “Whakatiputanga Ngahere”, intended to be delivered in Tairāwhiti. It has been designed taking into account the local environment and cultural nuances.

TRENDS AT A GLANCE



In 2020, forestry and logging were the biggest contributors to Tairāwhiti regions GDP earning \$180.7m. This represents 8.2% of total GDP for the region.



Between 2015-2020, forestry and logging industry has seen the largest growth in the number of employees, increasing from 352 to 552. Anecdotal reports suggest this number was closer to 1,000 employees in 2021.



Forestry and logging have the regions highest comparative advantage, which means they have the ability to produce a particular good or service at a lower opportunity cost than the New Zealand average.

OPPORTUNITIES

The Tūranga Ararau “Whakatiputanga Ngahere” course will provide a number of opportunities for the region, including:

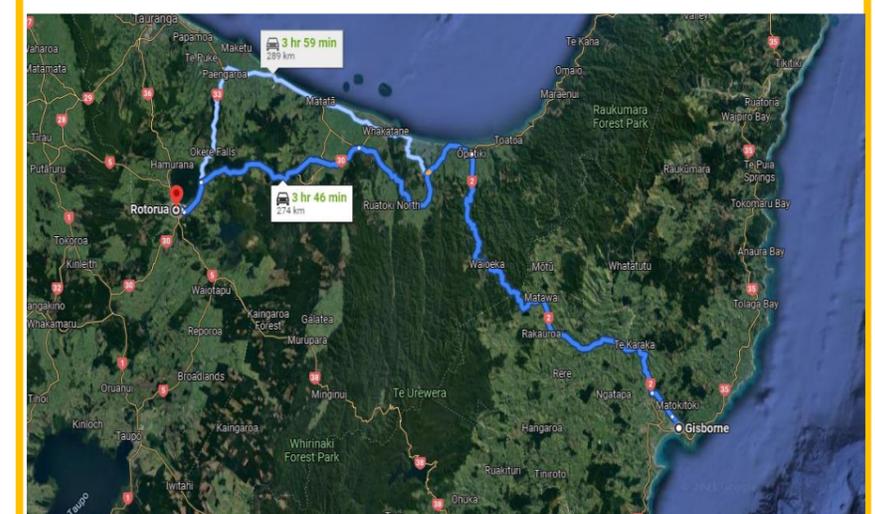
- Building Tūranga Ararau capability as an Iwi Tertiary Education provider.** It will allow them to develop and deliver accessible and affordable NZQA approved and accredited higher level forestry management programmes in Tairāwhiti.
- Enabling local whānau to progress into sustainable employment across a range of roles** including forest managers, advisers, technicians and researchers.
- Providing high skill and high paying jobs for locals,** as well as increasing the pool of highly skilled and qualified leaders in the forestry industry.
- Increasing uptake to 10-12 students per-year.** Since 1995 Tūranga Ararau have had 33 graduates of the Diploma programme with most moving into managerial/supervisory roles in the forestry sector.
- Reducing dependence on recruiting 'skills, knowledge and expertise' from outside of our region.**

CHALLENGES

The inability to deliver this course in Tairāwhiti creates several challenges including:

- Currently there is no training available for Level 6 (diploma) forestry qualifications in Tairāwhiti.** Students haven’t been able to complete the first year of the diploma qualification in Gisborne since 2017.
- Since 2018, students have had to relocate to Rotorua (for 2 years) to attend Toi Ohomai.** This has meant moving away from whānau, their stable living environments and in some cases employment.
- Local forestry students want to remain in Tairāwhiti and close to their whānau and support networks.** However, they don’t have access to the same learning opportunities that are offered elsewhere.
- Tūranga Ararau will not be delivering the Level 6 programme in 2022 due to delays in getting NZQA approval.** This means that only 1 out of the 11 students who were interested in completing this programme in Gisborne in 2022, has been able to enrol to complete the programme at Toi Ohomai in Rotorua.

THE TAIRĀWHITI REGION



Travel time from Gisborne to Rotorua is 3 hours and 46 minutes. This is unjustifiable for many whānau as they would have to move their lives to Rotorua to complete this Diploma currently.

NEXT STEPS:

- This document will be shared with regional leaders throughout Tairāwhiti to support conversations for upskilling the forestry and logging workforce and help influence local training opportunities.