

Doccm-6856241

29 November 2021

Skyline@eco-innovationz.co.nz

Kia ora,

During the last 25 years the Department of Conservation has supported low impact logging methods in the Marlborough Sounds.

### **Context**

In the 1970's plantation forests of *Pinus Radiata* were established in the Sounds as an economic opportunity to utilise unproductive land. Pines were planted without a great deal of thought about eventual harvest 20-30 years later. Traditional logging techniques have been used to harvest the mature trees which has resulted in extensive tracking and skid sites in steep terrain, and where no road access exists, barge loading sites have been built above the foreshore to sort, load, and transport logs on the water by barge.

Traditional logging methods and technology in the Sounds environment has often resulted in poor outcomes on the receiving area particularly the fresh water and marine ecosystems mainly due to increased sediment loading.

Further context is wilding pines have been an ongoing issue in the Sounds with some 'woodlots' comprising of a number of salvageable timbers. The majority of wilding pines are widely dispersed impacting on the surrounding native vegetation and dominating the landscape. In the past the Department, when log values were high, arranged for trees to be cut down and removed by helicopter. It was during this time we also trialled using the skyline system of logging dense stands of wilding pines.

We learnt that by using helicopters and the skyline method of extraction there are very positive outcomes. Fleeting the timber onto a barge by aerial methods meant there was a distinct reduction in wilding pine regeneration at those logged sites because the logs didn't get dragged along the ground as they were suspended above it and as a result there was very little ground disturbance. Using traditional log hauling methods would result in bare ground making it an ideal source for further wilding pine regeneration. This side benefit of using the skyline system is not well understood or documented.

**Department of Conservation *Te Papa Atawhai***

Whakātu Nelson Office

Private Bag 5, Nelson 7042,

[www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)

The obvious benefit of using skyline aerial suspension of logs is a huge reduction in ground disturbance and sediment loadings in the water, greater slope stability and reduced tracking and skid sites.

## **Issues**

Wilding pines have and continue to be an environmental issue in the Marlborough Sounds. They compete with the slower growing native vegetation; they suck up precious water and they completely dominate the landscape reducing amenity and visual values.

There has been no real plan to extract wilding pines with harvesting being carried out opportunistically as prices rise. Many of the dense stands of pine are on private land and there is little incentive for owners to use low impact extraction methods. Marlborough District Council (MDC) are aware of the impacts ground based extraction has on the freshwater and marine ecosystems; setting up monitoring and conditions when harvesting takes place.

Department of Conservation (DOC) largely inherited wilding pines when reserves were purchased by the Crown or gifted to DOC to manage in perpetuity. Seedfall from pine forests and 'old man pines' several kilometres away has infested open areas and bare ground created by slips and fire.

Conventional harvesting methods often result in unacceptable downstream impacts on water quality, landscape values via tracking and slips. Usually, the first vegetation to grow back on disturbed logged ground is gorse and self-sown pines.

Over the years DOC, MDC, selected landowners, and community groups have battled away cutting down and poisoning unwanted wilding pines and while significant progress has been made there are still large areas that require control or removal.

Extraction of useable timber from planted and wilding pines has usually boiled down to economics with landowners, opting for conventionally logging methods, which is the cheaper option. However, nobody has really factored in or thought about the hidden cost on the environment, landscape and communities when weighing up the economics.

## **There is a solution**

As previously mentioned, we have seen and used a practical and low impact form of extraction of timber in the Sounds. The Skyline aerial suspension of harvesting logs delivers an environmentally friendly method of extraction which conventional ground-based logging cannot.

We support using low impact technology and extraction of trees in the Sounds for the range of reasons already outlined. The methods, procedures and advanced technology of Skyline logging has improved over the years. For instance, anchoring to the seafloor has been developed to improve barge stability and reduce the need for foreshore rock drilling.

## **Conclusion**

The Department of Conservation fully supports low impact Skyline aerial extraction of timber from the Marlborough Sounds.

The technology and methods of harvesting logs has improved even further over the years and in this day and age where we need to put our environment first. Skyline logging certainly is a proven system which ticks all the boxes. As a method of extraction this deserves greater support and acknowledgement from agencies as the most suitable option for logging trees in fragile environments such as the Sounds where road access is limited or doesn't exist.

If we continue to only use conventional logging and harvesting methods, we will continue to get the same end results, which often compromise our marine and terrestrial environments for future generations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roy Grose', with a stylized, cursive script.

Roy Grose  
Director Operations  
Northern South Island Region

To Whom It May Concern

I write this submission in support of Darryn Newman and his application to extract felled logs using aerial cables to lift the timber and deliver it via said cables to an anchored gathering point in the sea. This proposed method of harvesting will reduce the need for vehicle roads and bulldozed loading sites damaging the ground contour on steep slopes and destroying beaches with problems of soil disturbance, general detritus and 'slash' filling gullies and beaches and the resulting siltation that smothers the seabed.

I write this submission as the administrator of a family partnership of cousins who suffered substantial property damage due to poor logging practices at our property on Snake Point, Queen Charlotte Sound, namely the destruction of a house, sleep-out, boatshed, part of a jetty, and 5 boats demolished as well as the loss of all sea-life for four years after logging in our bay due to siltation from soil disturbance.

I also write this as person who has holidayed at Snake Point in the Marlborough Sounds for 74 of my 80 years.

My submission-

The past method of logging in the Marlborough Sounds that is still being approved today to my observation has been severely detrimental to the ecology and the environment of the Marlborough Sounds for many years and still is.

I consider the logging method proposed by Darryn Newman to be far superior and indeed in Japan in **September 1964** I observed logging in a native forest on a steep mountainside near Nikko that my diary records the loggers 'were removing logs by radio controlled aerial cableway with no disturbance to the ecology and the mountainsides'.

In my support for this application of Darryn Newman I ask the readers of my submission,

**If this method of environmentally-friendly log extraction was being done on steep mountainsides in Japan 55 years ago why are authorities not approving it in New Zealand?**

Our family experiences of log extraction on Snake point are detailed below-

When logging started at the southern end of Snake Point peninsular in the latter part of the 1970's on what is now Lot19, logs were transported south along the ridge to a jetty that had previously serviced the Jorgensen sawmill and were loaded from there to be barged to Picton.

In the summer of 1982 we were surprised to find that the logging contactor Odmins Ltd or their subcontractor had cut some of our trees and levelled our land Lot 34 in places reducing the height at least 6 meters in places and created a track by pushing soil and rocks down the eastern slope of our property. Trees were being stacked along this track. Slash and detritus were pushed into the stream on our property causing a blockage and ponding. No notification was made to us of this illegal bulldozing and the trees removal. Logs were now being hauled by drag-line to the high point of the peninsular then were loaded on to a truck to be transported to Milton Bay for barging to Picton.

The drag-line operation had created a deep rut down the ridgeline to the loading area on our property and when it rained the run-off water ponded on the flattened site which the logging sub-contractor then diverted from these ponds into the catchment of the small stream on our property.

In 1983 we had the first of a number of minor landslips caused by the track and loading area damage to our property and a large amount of soil and rocks came down and partially engulfed our house that had been on site since 1946.

Water that had been ponding on the ridgeline flattened area had also been leaching into the subterranean soil on the slopes on our property. In June 1993 heavy rain fell on our property and the soil which was loosened over time from said leaching, peeled away from the base rock carrying with it logs, slash, stumps and general detritus left behind on our property by log harvesting, destroying our house, obliterating existing landscaping and covering the beach and extending 15 meters into the water.

In July 1998 a second major slip starting at the north end of the bulldozed flattened ridge destroyed our remaining sleep-out, boatshed, and jetty and brought down more detritus to cover our land and the foreshore reserve land in front.

The end result of this damage is that geo-technical engineers reported to the Marlborough District Council that we be no longer able to re-build a house on our land.

During the log harvesting operations of 1970/82 and again circa 2000 we saw evidence of logs that had been lost during haulage and harvesting. During the 1970's harvest on the eastern shoreline of the peninsular, there were many logs that had slid down the slope and came to rest on the beach and some into the sea to drift and became boating hazards. In 1999 during harvest a log escaped a haul line and went completely through our northern neighbour's house, entering through the rear wall and exiting through the floor and basement doing considerable damage.

Silt run-off became a real problem in our bay. We observed up to 8 – 10 centimetres of silt on seabed in our bay. We observed as a result a noticeable absence of invertebrates such as cats-eyes and kina that had been previously abundant. During and following the 1970/80's harvesting we did not catch many ground feeding fish such as blue cod and gurnard in our bay. This extinction lasted four years in our bay before tidal currents cleaned away the silt. A research study undertaken by the Victoria University of Wellington and another by Johnson, Mace & Laffan (1981) confirmed our observations.

This is our family's real experience of logging extraction by the method still being approved by the District Council today, and is for this reason based on our family's experience that I support the application of Darryn Newman. The Marlborough Sounds is too beautiful and too abundant of beautiful nature for it to be lost to future generations by approving destructive harvesting practices. It is time to introduce more environmental conscious harvesting methods.

Ian Bade

27 October 2021

Darryn Newman

[darrynnewman@gmail.com](mailto:darrynnewman@gmail.com)

Tēnā koe Darryn

### **Eco-Innovationz Method – Skyline logging in the Marlborough Sounds**

It has been distressing to witness the detrimental outcomes from commercial forestry harvest in the Marlborough Sounds and the related cumulative adverse effects generated by the current harvest and retrieval practices, which have led to the mobilization / loss of vast tonnages of top-soil and the consequent smothering of the benthos – bottom-life marine habitat. <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/study-of-marlborough-sounds-seabed-flings-mud-at-farmers-and-foresters/TJW3V5ZD3KDFA3FJPCDLT7TOME/> & <http://researcharchive.lincoln.ac.nz/handle/10182/12642?show=full>

Much harvest work remains to be undertaken over the coming years and steps must be taken to stop the cumulative degradation.

In this context, I am writing in support of the development, testing and implementation of your, alternative, skyline logging method, which potentially offers the change in practice necessary to overcome these historic, detrimental effects. While I've not seen the system in action, I do note the successful historic application of this principle in Switzerland. You have also kept our team up-to-date over a number of years with the evolution of your particular system and the related aspirations to achieve low impact logging outcomes; currently updated:

<https://www.eco-innovationz.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Eco-Innovationz-Overview-v1.pdf>

Apart from helicopter logging, this system seems to offer the next best low-impact solution, which includes other important aspects such as reduction in logging traffic, reduced carbon emissions, sub-canopy habitat retention, top-soil retention and a range of system adaptability. Noting the fundamental sea-anchorage component, it is important that the engagement of that ecosystem is carried out responsibly, in context.

I do note the level of adverse rhetoric that cites the cost of using this method as 'unaffordable'. However, this question has to be posed: "What is the cost of not using it?" Because, to date, we have seen an example of the alternative outcome(s); an enormous, incalculable cost to the Sounds' environment.

Our team wishes you well in your quest to get your system up and running.

Ngā mihi nui



Ian Shapcott

*Kaitiaki o te Taiao | Guardians of the Environment*

Te Ātiawa Manawhenua Ki Te Tau Ihu Trust

30 October 2020



To whom it may concern

Our initial meeting back in 2010, with Darryn Newman was purely by chance at a time when we were searching for an alternative solution to harvest both native and exotic timbers, on both Ruatuhuna Trust land and private forests in our area. We immediately recognized the potential of the skyline system as a solution to achieving multiple goals the Trust had in the pipeline for its otherwise inaccessible steep bush-covered lands of 9000 ha, but we were also extremely impressed by Darryn's enduring passion for the system, in-depth knowledge, obvious expertise and positive solution-focused thinking.

Up until we met Darryn we had been advised by consultants that the solution was to use conventional methods which included the construction of a large and expensive roading network to allow trucks to enter and exit the block. The cost of the roading was huge and with it came additional expenses to mitigate the effects of the environmental impacts caused by this conventional method of harvesting. If we hadn't met Darryn and learned about his work in Marlborough and specifically the Marlborough Sounds we would have blindly gone with the conventional method, not knowing any better.

The Trust wishes to endorse not only the Skyline system but Darryn's innovative problem solving. We put our master plan in front of Darryn and after numerous meetings, phone calls and personal visits to the Ruatahuna land, he has come up with exciting and viable solutions to numerous aspects of our project. Thus, we strongly endorse Darryn with his years of experience within the industry and we have found him excellent to work with.

One of the most positive aspects of using this system is that we know we are going to be able to leave a legacy we are proud of for generations to come – where we have not wrought environmental damage in the utilization of our lands. We are also hugely excited by the opportunities of multiple land use that are made possible through this Skyline technology. This is just what we need not just for sustainable forestry management but also for other enterprises with a gentle environmental footprint such as apiculture and tourism. We see that this is a technology that we could take ownership of to grow it within our hapu as our own, creating new opportunities to generate income, jobs and connection for our Iwi, all the while expanding our ability to care for our land and grow future enterprise opportunities.

Finally, we strongly encourage those facing the harvesting of native or exotic trees to explore the potential of the skyline technology, especially for sensitive, steep or hard to access terrain. In our view, the skyline system is a perfect solution for more than just logging in New Zealand.

Heoi ano naku na

Brenda Tahī

Executive Trustee



25 September 2020

Darryn Newman  
[Darrynnewman@gmail.com](mailto:Darrynnewman@gmail.com)

Dear Darryn,

### **Skyline logging in The Marlborough Sounds**

We are happy to endorse the skyline logging system as a lower impact logging system in the Marlborough Sounds.

It is, apart from the heli-logging, the lowest impact extraction technique for logging exotic trees in the Sounds. This is particularly relevant in areas adjacent to coastal areas where less impact results from significantly reduced roading, skid sites and also barge loading sites. This reduction in infrastructure results in greatly reducing the chance of sediment entering waterways.

Barge anchoring systems will produce some seabed impact and these need to be considered in the overall assessment of the specific sites especially if this is within sites that have significant marine values.

I wish you all the best in continuing to establish the skyline logging system as the go-to method for reducing the environmental effects of logging in the Sounds.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dave Hayes'.

Dave Hayes  
Operations Manager, Sounds  
0272919143 / [dhayes@doc.govt.nz](mailto:dhayes@doc.govt.nz)

Darryn Newman,  
Eco-Nomic Construction Ltd

16 October, 2020

Dear Darryn,

On behalf of the President and members of the Marlborough Recreational Fishers Association, I write to thank you for your most interesting presentation to our association. Your proposed solution to the problem inherent in removing felled timber is most ingenious and illustrative of the ways in which harvesting of timber can be made more sympathetic to the environment.

As an association we are collectively concerned about the accumulation of silt and woody residue in the Sounds which result from the rather crude forestry methods used to date, as well as the expense of making roads and skids though this difficult terrain, and the inefficiencies of multiple handlings, so the concept of moving trees straight to offshore barges is a very attractive one, and which is likely to also be persuasive to forestry owners as being 'green' and economically attractive.

We hope that your project is successful and we look forward to hearing of your progress.

Yours sincerely,



Jennifer Leader  
Secretary Marlborough Recreational Fishers Association,  
P.O. Box 834,  
Blenheim



23 April 2019

Darryn Newman  
6 Gane Street  
Spring Creek  
Blenheim 7202

Ph 021 141 7315

**Sent by Email**

**Letter of Intention to enter agreement with Darryn Newman.**

**Pine tree removal at Mud Bay and Yncyca Bay.**

Dear Darryn

Thank you for discussing the removal of pine trees on reserve land managed by DOC in Mud Bay and Yncyca Bay using the Wyssen Skyline system of removal.

This letter summarises our intentions moving forward.

### **Proposal**

Areas of pine trees in both Mud Bay and Yncyca Bay have remained standing on DOC managed reserve land following the harvest of plantation forests on adjoining freehold properties. DOC acknowledges that the area of pines in both these bays are uneconomical to commercially harvest, hence why they have remained standing after the adjoining land was harvested.

The area of pines at Mud Bay is approximately 3 hectares. The area of pines at Yncyca Bay is approximately 1.5 hectares.

Darryn Newman has approached DOC with the proposal to have these trees removed using the Wyssen Skyline system of removal.

DOC supports the removal of these pines from the scenic reserve land.

DOC supports the removal of pines using environmentally sustainable methods and supports the promotion of environmentally sustainable practices.

### **Ecological consideration**

DOC acknowledges that the information provided on the Wyssen Skyline system of removal shows it to be environmentally sustainable, limiting the damage to the adjoining reserve land as the pines are removed.

DOC-

From: **Anna Tyler** [Anna.Tyler@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Anna.Tyler@parliament.govt.nz)  
Subject: Emailing: Response to your correspondence 12 April  
Date: 14 June 2018 at 3:54 PM  
To: [darrynnewman@gmail.com](mailto:darrynnewman@gmail.com)

AT

Dear Darryn,

Please find attached a response from Hon Shane Jones to your email of 12 April.

Kind regards

Anna Tyler

Private Secretary (Forestry and Regional Economic Development)

Office of Hon Shane Jones

Your message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

SJ805 Signed response Darryn Newman.pdf

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.

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## Hon Shane Jones

Minister of Forestry

Minister for Infrastructure

Minister for Regional Economic Development

Associate Minister of Finance

Associate Minister of Transport



MIN18-0500

8 JUN 2018

Darryn Newman  
[darrynnewman@gmail.com](mailto:darrynnewman@gmail.com)

Tēnā koe Darryn

Thank you for your email of 12 April bringing this marine harvesting technology to my attention. As you may know, the Government has made a commitment to plant one billion trees over the next 10 years. This is going to require a significant shift of land-use into both permanent and harvestable forest-cover.

Innovative harvesting technologies such as this support more land to be opened for economic forest production and help mitigate the environmental impact of harvest. With this in mind, I have passed your letter on to my officials responsible for the One Billion Tree Planting Programme. I am sure this will support them to consider the range of harvesting options available for forestry-land adjacent to marine environments.

Thank you for your letter and for your contribution of 35 years in the forestry industry and the Forest Service.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Nāku noa, nā'.

Darryn Newman,

Renwick,

Marlborough

17 January 2012

Dear Darryn,

**Re Wyssen Logging System for Marlborough Sounds and Other Steep Logging Sites**

As Chair of the Marlborough District Council's Environment Committee (effectively the Regional Council as we are a unitary authority) I can confirm my firm support for your logging system.

In the 1970's I was a Soil Conservator with the Westland Catchment Board, at which time I gathered a good working knowledge of forest harvesting operations, in particular logging methods and their effects on soil erosion and stability of waterways.

When the Marlborough Sounds was widely planted in the 1970's and 80's it was anticipated by the Marlborough Catchment Board that aerial logging techniques would be necessary to prevent damage to the steep delicate geology of the hills, and to the waterways of the Sounds, especially the prevention of siltation. That these logging systems didn't eventuate is a matter of concern for the current Council, which is currently developing its second generation Regional Policy Statement and District Plans. As a member of the small sub-committee dealing with these plans I can confirm that the Plans are likely to encourage aerial logging methods with the view to protection of said soil and water resources.

In short I am giving my firm support to your system and would strongly encourage any organisation or individual with an interest in the system, which has large advantages in environmentally efficient forest harvesting over current practices.

With Regards,

Peter Jerram BAgSc.,BVSc(dist)

Chairman Environment Committee

Marlborough District Council

[jerram@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jerram@xtra.co.nz)



24 May 2011

Attn: Marlborough District Council

**LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR RESOURCE CONSENT APPLICATION (DARRYN NEWMAN)**

The Marlborough Sounds Restoration Trust is a registered charitable trust that was established with the aim of undertaking a range of projects that delivered positive environmental outcomes for the Marlborough Sounds.

In the past three years, the Trust has undertaken wilding pine control throughout Inner Queen Charlotte Sound, with funding support from landowners, central and local government, and regional business interests.

The Trust has excluded several thick forests of pines from treatment, as they are more suitable for commercial felling. In this regard, we have worked with Mr Newman to get landowner support for the felling of these stands, using the proposed skyline cable felling method. We believe the proposed method offers the most appropriate technology to undertake logging in the area, as it involves minimal soil disturbance and a reduced risk of run-off, and is therefore in accordance with the Trust's environmental objectives.

While the stands are on conservation land, the Trust has undertaken to work with the Department of Conservation to manage the rehabilitation of the sites after felling has taken place, primarily by the removal of all pine regrowth using aerial boom-spraying. This post-felling management will contribute to the Trust's objective of preventing the further re-establishment of wilding pines in Inner Queen Charlotte Sound.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Macalister".

Andrew Macalister  
Trustee



FILE: FOR:002  
(USE:5940)  
CJW:GA

17 October 1995

## TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

### FULL SUSPENSION LOGGING SYSTEMS

The Department of Conservation owns areas of pine forest growing within scenic reserves in the Marlborough Sounds. The Department intends to gradually remove these pine forests to enable the reserves to revert to a full native vegetation cover.

Because most of our blocks have sea access only, the handling of pine logs is more difficult than on conventional sites and the foreshore area in particular can be seriously damaged using conventional logging equipment to load barges, etc. The Department of Conservation will foster only those logging methods which inflict very little damage on the environment and to this end, we are interested in suing the Swiss developed full suspension logging system which results in minimal soil disturbance as logs are transported from the forest via an aerial cableway directly down to a barge.

We would welcome the introduction of this system into New Zealand and indeed would hope that this type of logging will become more widespread because of its environmental advantages.

Because of the specialised nature of this type of logging system, skilled operators will be needed to not only run the equipment initially but also to teach New Zealanders the proper use and application of the machinery so that its use can be extended throughout the country. At this initial stage of development, there will be a need to "import" skilled operators to not only run the machinery but to pass on their knowledge to others.

The Department of Conservation supports any move in this direction.

Colin Wishart  
Use Manager  
Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy