

# Recommended Practices for COVID–19: Forestry

The Forestry function includes all activities from the Establishment phase through to Pre-harvest.

It encompasses all activities which centre around growth of the forest crop and maintenance of the asset for the majority of the rotation.

- Tree nurseries
- Mechanical site preparation
- Aerial spraying
- Planting
- Manual spot spraying
- Silviculture (pruning & thinning)
- Inventory
- Pest control (animal & plant)
- Fencing & security gate work
- Other forest maintenance

## **Re-induction of everyone on site**

- Each worker to be re-inducted on the new practices for COVID–19 for the work site
- Each individual to possess individual PPE that includes a bottle of sanitiser, soap and paper towels, individual water bottles and toilet paper. These are not to be shared.

## **Forestry – Individual task analysis and controls**

### **Nursery – Seasonal workers**

Task	Multiple Contact Engagements	Exposure Management Controls
Get to work	One bubble	If not travelling individually by private vehicle (in which case no multiple contacts), 1 bubble or crew per vehicle/ trip (dependent on vehicle seat numbers), clean interior surfaces of vehicle between trips to nursery.
Prepare for work including PPE options	One bubble	Bubbles to be assigned time at shed to prepare. Physical distancing to be enforced. Sanitisation practices between bubbles to be implemented.

Task	Multiple Contact Engagements	Exposure Management Controls
Toolbox meeting	One bubble	Physical distancing in open area, outside shed.
Movement around nursery by foot	One bubble	All movements to maintain physical distancing.
Cutting and Setting	One bubble	<p>Within field / shed maintain physical distancing, 1 cutter per hedge line, miss a hedgeline so individuals are walking their own alley way.</p> <p>Common surfaces such as boxes and trailers; QC and Boxy to wear protective gloves, Cutters not required.</p> <p>Only touch individual's box with cutting material.</p> <p>Shears / clippers cleaned and sanitised for storage.</p>
Lift and Pack	One bubble	<p>Within field / shed maintain physical spacing.</p> <p>Common surfaces such as boxes and packing bubbles/crates; QC and Boxy to wear protective gloves, Lifters not required.</p> <p>Only touch individual's box for packing.</p> <p>Shears/clippers/guillotines cleaned and sanitised for storage.</p>
Despatch	Two people	<p>1 person nominated as Despatch operator. Multiple transport operators.</p> <p>Despatcher to record onsite transport operators daily.</p> <p>Common surfaces such as forklifts to be sanitised between operators. Transport operator to load consignment.</p> <p>Maintain physical distancing at all times.</p> <p>Transport operator to wear gloves at consignment signoff.</p>
Smokos / Meal breaks	One bubble	Bubble sizes to be set to allow work programme to be efficiently completed while maintaining physical distancing. If more than 1 bubble within the nursery, stagger smoko / meal breaks at common shed. Sanitisation practices implemented between bubbles. Clean common areas daily.

## **Nursery – Crop growing**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Multiple Contact Engagements</b>	<b>Exposure Management Controls</b>
Get to work	None	1 person per car.
Prepare for work including PPE options	Two people	Permanent staff gear location assigned. Physical distancing to be enforced. Sanitisation practices between permanent staff and bubbles (if operating) to be implemented.
Toolbox meeting	One bubble	Physical distancing in office. Individuals to take physical notes on work programme.
Tractor driving	None	1 person driving common tractor. At completion of operation sanitise tractor cab (steering wheel, gear levers, controls).
Crop conditioning	Two people	1 person driving tractor, second person on implement maintain physical distancing. Sanitise tractor and implement common surfaces at completion.
Maintenance	One person	1 nominated person to run workshop, complete maintenance requirements.

## **Mechanical site preparation**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Multiple Contact Engagements</b>	<b>Exposure Management Controls</b>
Work prescription, hazard ID and shape file data files are prepared by forest company	None	Forest company emails pdf and uploads shape files directly to contractors' GPS device.
Contractor prints out documentation, signs it and scans / emails back to forest company	None	Contractor completes task at base prior to field work.

<b>Task</b>	<b>Multiple Contact Engagements</b>	<b>Exposure Management Controls</b>
Contractor and forest manager discuss the prescribed job over the phone.	None	Discuss on phone.
Contractor transports machine to site	None	<p>Contractor drives light vehicle to site transport company. Have 1 person driving truck to site with excavator.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Radio is used to communicate when at site</li> <li>• Truck driver unhooks excavator and then retreats to cab</li> <li>• Contractor drives excavator off truck</li> <li>• Truck driver then leaves site</li> <li>• No contact between two parties.</li> </ul>
Forest gate opening and closing	None	Contractor to open and close gates. Wash or sanitise hands as soon as possible.
Sign in and out of property if appropriate	None	Contractor uses online app if available otherwise use gloves to sign in and out of book.
Carry out spot cultivation	None	1 person working on site at all times.
Forest company representative onsite supervision and compliance.	Two people	1 forest representative and 1 machine operator can communicate via radio or to maintain physical distancing.

## Aerial spraying

Task	Multiple Contact Engagements	Exposure Management Controls
Work prescriptions and aerial shape file data files are prepared by forest company	None	Forest company emails pdf and uploads shape files directly to contractors' GPS device.
Aerial contractor prints out documentation and uploads GPS shape files into helicopter	None	Contractor completes task at base prior to field application.
Chemical is collected from storage facility and handled	Two people	<p>1 person on loader and 1 driver securing vehicle load for transportation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nominated person open / close facility</li> <li>• Manhandling containers – two people as required 1 metre distancing minimum and wearing gloves.</li> <li>• Driver only secures load</li> <li>• All other movements maintain physical distancing.</li> </ul>
Forest owner representative drives to application site	None	1 person in own vehicle.
Chemical transported to field for application by ground crew	None	1 person in own vehicle.
Water cart transported to field for chemical mixing (optional if no pond source)	None	1 person in own vehicle.
Forest gate opening and closing	None	1 nominated person to open and close gates. Wash hands or sanitise as soon as possible.

Task	Multiple Contact Engagements	Exposure Management Controls
Onsite setup and mixing of chemicals	None	1 person operation. If second person maintain physical distancing.
Water tanker filling at aerial ground crew	Two people	Tanker driver controls the fill operation. Aerial ground crew maintain physical distancing.
Ground crew loading helicopter chemical and fuel	Two people	1 ground crew working alone, the pilot is isolated in the helicopter.
Forest company representative onsite supervision and compliance.	Two people	1 forest representative and 1 ground crew or 1 pilot can communicate via independent radio or maintain physical distancing.

## **Planting**

Task	Multiple Contact Engagements	Exposure Management Controls
Work prescriptions and maps are prepared by forest company	None	Forest company emails prescriptions and maps to the contractor.
Contractor prints out documentation or loads onto field device	None	Contractor completes task at base.
Crews are allocated to vehicles and limited to only have direct contact with their assigned crew	Limit to as few as possible	<p>Driver/crew leader.</p> <p>Variable crew size depending on scale of operation.</p> <p>Crews depart from allocated pick up point, do not come to central point or depot.</p> <p>All personal belongings removed from vehicle every night at drop off.</p> <p>Driver cleans and disinfects the vehicle every night.</p>
Contractor / supervisor manages field operations	None	1 person in own vehicle maintains physical distancing on site, communicates via radio wherever possible or maintain physical distancing.

Task	Multiple Contact Engagements	Exposure Management Controls
Forest gate opening and closing	None	1 nominated person to open and close gates. Wash hands or sanitise as soon as possible.
Each crew allocated a separate work area or block	Limit to as few as possible	Clearly marked or mapped area allocated to each crew, may be part of a block adjacent to other crews providing physical distancing is maintained.
Quality control	None	1 person in own vehicle. Maintain physical distancing. Data delivered electronically.
Trees delivered from nursery, chemical or fertiliser delivered	None	Trees, chemical, fertiliser delivered without contact with crew.
Collect boxes from bubbles or trailers, fertiliser or chemical	Limit to as few as possible	Each crew allocated individual bubbles / storage on site, separated to allow physical distancing.
Return empty boxes to bubbles / storage	Limit to as few as possible	As above.
Accommodation (if provided)	Limit to as few as possible	Maintain crew bubble.

### **Silviculture (manual spot spraying, pruning, thinning)**

Task	Multiple Contact Engagements	Exposure Management Controls
Work prescriptions and maps are prepared by forest company.	None	Forest company emails prescriptions and maps to the contractor.
Contractor prints out documentation or loads onto field device	None	Contractor completes task at base.

Task	Multiple Contact Engagements	Exposure Management Controls
Crews are allocated to vehicles and limited to only have direct contact with their assigned crew	Limit to as few as possible	<p>Driver/crew leader.</p> <p>Variable crew size depending on scale of operation.</p> <p>Crews depart from allocated pick up point, do not come to central point or depot.</p> <p>All personal belongings removed from vehicle every night at drop off.</p> <p>Driver cleans and disinfects the vehicle every night.</p>
Forest gate opening and closing	None	1 nominated person to open and close gates. Wash hands or sanitise as soon as possible.
Contractor / supervisor manages field operations	None	1 person in own vehicle maintains physical distancing on site, communicates via radio wherever possible or maintain physical distancing.
Each crew allocated a separate work area or block	Limit to as few as possible	Clearly marked or mapped area allocated to the crew, may be part of a block adjacent to other crews providing physical distancing is managed.
Quality control	None	1 person in own vehicle. Maintain physical distancing. Data delivered electronically.
Accommodation (if provided)	Limit to as few as possible	Maintain crew bubble.

## Inventory

Task	Multiple Contact Engagements	Exposure Management Controls
Manager preparation – Work prescriptions, mapping, hazard ID, plot locations, permits and security keys.	None	<p>Forest company emails pdfs and plot data and ensures systems are set up electronically.</p> <p>Disinfect keys. Maintain physical distancing.</p>



Task	Multiple Contact Engagements	Exposure Management Controls
Task preparation – Inventory supervisor / contractor prints out paper maps if required or uses electronic systems such as Avenza maps.	None	Supervisor or contractor completes task at base prior to field application and assembles all necessary equipment.
Driving – Inventory Contractor or forest supervisor/s drives to site. Depending on inventory task this can be one or two people.	Limit to as few as possible	Limit bubble size by vehicle occupant numbers.
Equipment and devices	None	All electronic equipment or manual equipment is not to be shared. This includes tablets, allegros, GPS, phones, tape measures, clinometers etc.  All equipment is to be disinfected daily.
Data – Try to utilise digital systems / apps such as survey 123 if possible.	None	All data is to be supplied electronically.  If paper-based systems are used this is to be sent by photo, original paper copies to have an incubation period before being handled by another party.
Forest gate opening and closing	None	1 nominated person to open and close gates. Wash hands as soon as practical.
Traceability	None	Record track logs via GPS or using your smart phone ensure location icon is activated.  Record any other activities or human contact at the site. Always maintain physical distancing.
Accommodation – If camping away	None	Separate motel units for individuals.
ATV – side by sides or quads	None	As per vehicle utilising 1 designated driver in a side by side or individual quads.

Task	Multiple Contact Engagements	Exposure Management Controls
Utilisation of Drones – UAV operators when collecting data	None	When carrying out and operating UAV's as an individual they need to apply all the rules as above.

## **Animal pest control**

Task	Multiple Contact Engagements	Exposure Management Controls
Work prescriptions and maps are prepared by forest company	None	Forest company emails map files to the contractor.
Chemical / ammunition / traps are collected from storage facility and handled	None	1 person in own vehicle.
Contractor drives to site	None	1 person in own vehicle. If vehicle shared disinfect before and after.
Forest gate opening and closing	None	1 nominated person to open and close gates. Wash hands as soon as practical.
Forest company representative onsite supervision and compliance.	Two people	1 forest representative and 1 contractor can communicate via independent radio or maintain physical distancing.

## Weed spraying

Task	Multiple Contact Engagements	Exposure Management Controls
Work prescriptions and maps are prepared by forest company.	None	Forest company emails map files to the contractor.
Chemicals are collected from storage facility and mixed.	None	1 person in own vehicle and sprayer.
Contractor picks up second person (if required) drives to site	Two people	Hands sanitised before entry and after exit of vehicle.
Application of chemical to weeds via pressurised hose / knapsack sprayer	Two people	Maintain physical distancing at all times. No swapping of tools / roles.
Forest gate opening and closing	None	1 nominated person to open and close gates. Wash hands as soon as practical.
Forest company representative onsite supervision and compliance.	Three people	1 forest representative and 2 contractors can communicate via independent radio or maintain physical distancing.

## General maintenance

Installation or maintenance of signs / gates / fences / cameras etc.

Task	Multiple Contact Engagements	Exposure Management Controls
Work prescriptions and maps are prepared by forest company	None	Forest company emails map files to the contractor or staff member.
Collection of tools / signs / other items	Two people (if items are purchased)	Masks to be worn if purchasing items. Disinfect items purchased. Sanitise hands if handling items before disinfecting.
Contractor / staff drives to site	None	1 person in own vehicle. If vehicle shared disinfect before and after.
Forest gate opening and closing	None	1 nominated person to open and close gates. Wash hands as soon as practical.
Forest company representative onsite supervision and compliance.	Two people	1 forest representative and contractor can communicate via independent radio or maintain physical distancing.

### KEEP YOURSELF AND OTHERS SAFE

- Stay home if you're are sick
- Get tested if you have symptoms; call Healthline 0800 358 5453 for advice on testing and isolating
- Wear face coverings when in close proximity to others
- Have QR codes in workplaces. Everyone must scan in or manually register
- Maintain physical distancing
- Wash hands for 20 seconds regularly with soap and dry thoroughly, or use sanitiser
- Clean and disinfect common contact surfaces frequently and keep other surfaces clean.