



**FICA – Press Release Tuesday 24 April 2018**

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### **Silviculture Contractors the Focus for SAG**

After an initial meeting in February which brought a group of passionate forest industry representatives together, a national silviculture action group (SAG) has been initiated. This was in response to the serious misconducts of some Silviculture Contractors who were identified as a result of various MBIE investigations last year, which has now resulted in several facing legal action. Appropriately regulators are looking at the industry to take ownership of this problem and resolve some significant issues faced by that sector of the forest industry. Not only is there an acute shortage of labour, but competition for that resource exists and now further pressure will be applied by the billion-tree planting proposal by Hon. Shane Jones MP.

The purpose of this group and supporting stakeholders is to produce a financially viable, sustainable, compliant and professional silviculture contracting workforce for growing NZ's forests. Initial funding has been sought to engage a project manager that will map out the issues, place them in the context of existing work being done in the industry and decide what else needs to be done specifically for silviculture.

The approval of \$20K funding through NZ Forest Growers Levy Trust for a Project Manager happened earlier this month and SAG are now looking for a person to take up the role. The subcommittee are encouraging silviculture contractors to look at their full participation in this project and also to become members of FICA and gather support and momentum as a collective industry.

The report is due in June, so the Project Manager has just under 2 months to get facts and figures together.

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Please contact Prue for more information as required.

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