

Title	Research and report on a forestry business improvement initiative		
Level	6	Credits	12

Purpose	People credited with this unit standard are able to: develop a research plan for a forestry business improvement initiative; collect and analyse data and information in accordance with the research plan; and formulate conclusions and prepare the business improvement initiative report.
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Classification	Forestry > Forestry Business Management
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Available grade	Achieved
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Guidance Information

- 1 Areas of a forestry business that may be researched include new land development opportunities, adjustment of forest regime, operational productivity, forest supply chain rationalisation, and forest machine or equipment deployment.
- 2 Definitions
Project Sponsor refers to an industry representative who will sign off the project at various stages to ensure the project meets industry standards.
Scope refers to the parameters of the research project as defined by worksite policies and procedures. Examples may include: for a new land development opportunity, the number of tree species to be researched; for a forest machine or equipment deployment initiative, the type of machines to be researched; for an adjustment of forest regime initiative, the target market for the final crop log types.
Worksite procedures refer to documented procedures used by the organisation carrying out the work and applicable to the tasks being carried out. They may include but are not limited to – standard operating procedures, site safety procedures, equipment operating procedures, quality assurance procedures, housekeeping standards, procedures to comply with legislative and local body requirements.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Develop a research plan for a forestry business improvement initiative.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 A forestry business improvement initiative is selected for research in accordance with the Project Sponsor's requirements.

- 1.2 The research plan objectives are developed in accordance with the Project Sponsor's requirements.
- Range must include but are not limited to – investigation of the social and environmental impact of the improvement initiative.
- 1.3 The research plan scope is defined in accordance with the Project Sponsor's requirements.
- 1.4 Five sources of information that are often used in forest business research are explained in terms of where to access the information and the type of information available.
- Range may include but is not limited to – forest company geographic information system, Crown Research Institute (Scion), yield prediction models, Land Information New Zealand, University of Canterbury School of Forestry, Future Forests Research, stand records, company financial accounts.
- 1.5 The research plan is documented in accordance with worksite procedures and meets the requirements of the Project Sponsor.
- Range signed off plan includes – objectives, scope, milestones, timeframes, roles and responsibilities, sources of information, data collection methodology, reporting requirements.

Outcome 2

Collect and analyse data and information in accordance with the research plan.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 Data and information are collected and recorded in accordance with the research plan.
- 2.2 Two tools commonly used for data analysis are explained in terms of the type of inputs and outputs.
- Range tools may include but are not limited to – industry growth models, yield prediction models, machine costing models, operational costing models, harvest planning software.
- 2.3 Data and information are reviewed to confirm accuracy and fit with research plan in accordance with the project sponsor's requirements, and any further data requirements are established and sourced if required.
- 2.4 Data and information are analysed to give results that support the objectives, scope and reporting requirements of the research plan in accordance with the project sponsor's requirements.

Outcome 3

Formulate conclusions and prepare the forest business improvement initiative report.

Performance criteria

- 3.1 Conclusions are determined from the data analysis which meet research plan objectives.
- Range must include but are not limited to – financial impacts, social impacts, environmental impacts, health and safety impacts.
- 3.2 Conclusions are checked for consistency with results of similar forest business improvement initiative research projects carried out by forestry research organisations in accordance with the Project Sponsor’s requirements.
- Range forestry research organisations may include but are not limited to – Crown Research Institute (Scion), University of Canterbury School of Forestry, Future Forests Research.
- 3.3 Recommendations drawn from the conclusions are consistent with results of the data analysis in accordance with the Project Sponsor’s requirements.
- 3.4 Report is produced in specified standard format in accordance with worksite procedures.
- Range specified standard format includes – table of contents, executive summary, scope, objectives, introduction, data capture methodology, data analysis, conclusions, recommendations.
- 3.5 All data and information sources are referenced in an appendix or bibliography in accordance with worksite procedures.
- 3.6 Research report and recommendations meet the research plan requirements of the Project Sponsor.

Planned review date	31 December 2022
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Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	16 October 2009	31 December 2017
Review	2	10 December 2015	N/A
Rollover and Revision	3	28 May 2020	N/A

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference	0173
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This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

Comments on this unit standard

Please contact Competenz qualifications@competenz.org.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.