

OneFortyOne announces intention to purchase Manuka Island forest estate

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Australian forestry company, OneFortyOne (OFO) has announced its intention to purchase the Manuka Island forest estate in the Wairau Valley near Blenheim. The proposed purchase is now being reviewed by the Overseas Investment Office.

The Manuka Island estate is approximately 2000 hectares of forest and currently owned by Merrill and Ring. Manuka Island will be integrated and managed as one forest estate by Nelson Management Ltd, the management company for Nelson Forests.

“The Manuka Island acquisition reflects our intention to continue to invest in the regions where we have an established presence. The acquisition complements our recent purchase of Nelson Forests and is a great fit for their estate,” says OFO’s Chief Executive Officer, Linda Sewell.

“Manuka Island will be a natural extension of our existing operation,” says Lees Seymour, Managing Director of Nelson Management Ltd. “We are excited about the employment and regional economic development opportunities that the proposed purchase will provide for Marlborough, in addition to our strong existing presence at Kaituna Sawmill and through our forest activities in the region.”

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About OneFortyOne

OFO was formed in 2012 following the acquisition of a 105-year lease of 93,000 hectares of plantation assets from the South Australian Government. OFO’s name comes from the 141st meridian line at the border of South Australia and Victoria and passing through OFO’s plantation estate.

Since commencing its operations OFO has expanded its estate, increased the number of trees planted and grown its domestic processing and sales market by more than 45 percent. In January 2018, OFO purchased Carter Holt Harvey’s Jubilee Highway sawmill in Mt Gambier, South Australia and Woodchip operations at Portland, Victoria. In just five years, OFO has become an established industry player within Australia with a strong track record of industry and community partnerships.



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OFO directly employs more than 360 people in addition to approximately 1450 contractors who provide road haulage, silvicultural and harvesting support, with the majority of employees living and working in close proximity to the plantation. OneFortyOne CEO, Linda Sewell, has extensive experience in forestry and wood processing in both New Zealand and Australia.

About Nelson Forests

Nelson Forests is a vertically-integrated plantation and sawmill business that operates in the Nelson Tasman and Marlborough regions of New Zealand. Nelson Forests owns more than 60,000 productive hectares of plantations and it produces 1.2 million cubic metres of logs and 55,000 m³ of timber annually.

Nelson Forests, located within New Zealand's second-largest domestic processing region, employs 101 people fulltime. Its business activity is further supported by approximately 350 contractors.

The Nelson Forests management team has more than 150 years of collective industry experience. Nelson Forests has a strong culture of safety and a track record of environmental management which has been broadly used as the benchmark for performance in the New Zealand industry.