



Title: “Logjam”

Description: Logging trucks at Eastland Port (Tairāwhiti/Gisborne).

Photographer: Henrik Moller

Where, when: Eastland Port, Gisborne/Tairāwhiti, New Zealand, March 2021.

Sustainability? It was staggering to me, an ecologist, to see the scale of biomass passing through Eastland Port on its way overseas. Ecologists sometimes use the “Biomass Return Ratio” as a measure of the proportion of recycling rather than extraction from an ecosystem – it’s an indicator of depletion and risk to local ecosystem functioning. The ratio must be low in this case because much of the forest is shipped out, leaving little to be naturally recycled back into those landscapes.

We need to urgently plant more trees and the pines harvested here can bind carbon at a marvellous rate. But it’s a picture of wasted opportunity too - we could build economic value and economic resilience if we processed the timber in New Zealand rather than feeding a commodity market with low-value product and running the gamut of fluctuating prices and exchange rates. In the meantime, the industry supports a lot of families on the East Coast.

Although forestry debris (“slash”) causes considerable damage to the waterway and coastline, the pine forest also contributes to biodiversity by promoting insects and insectivorous birds - it is mainly the nectar and fruit feeders, and species that need a tree cavity to nest in, that struggle to maintain a presence in pine forests.

We badly need more co-ordinated land use planning for a more strategic and intelligent balance of farming, forestry, environmental care in New Zealand’s hill country in particular.

Photo notes: Panorama from 3 exposures, 1/5s, 150 mm focal length, f/14, ISO-250.

Related commentary can be found with the “The Clearances” photo in this gallery.

Digital specs: 9,219 x 4,477 pixels (41 MP).

Key words: Forestry, logging, exports, farming, dawn, climate change, Aotearoa, New Zealand, sustainability, resilience, Henrik Moller

Price: \$150 (incl. GST) for use of the digital image.

Visit www.ecosystemsphotography/sales for details & to order, and to get a quote if you want a high-quality print.

Donation: The price includes a \$100 donation to a sustainability organisation or project of your choice, or otherwise for *50 Shades of Green*.

We recommend that the donation goes to *50 Shades of Green* because of their advocacy of multifunctional agriculture and the “right tree in the right place”. <https://www.50shadesofgreen.co.nz/>. They are not against forestry – they just advocate for a diverse landscape that integrates farming, forestry and biodiversity care.

Image Ref: HM#030 (Please refer to this reference in orders and correspondence)