



Tena koutou katoa, no mai, haere mai.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the beautiful Marlborough Sounds. I am **David Oddie**, one of three District Councillors representing the Sounds. I am also Chair of Council's Environment Committee.

I'd like to acknowledge my colleague Cllr Nadine Taylor, who is also a Sounds Ward Councillor and a member of my Committee.

I would also like to greet Raymond Smith of Te Runanga o Ngati Kuia and the iwi representative on the Environment Committee– Tena koe Raymond.

I am pleased that we are meeting today to talk about forestry and the environment.

Forestry is an important industry in Marlborough. It is one of the engines of our economy. Tens of thousands of hectares are planted in pines throughout the region, providing employment and social benefits to hundreds in our community.

In the Sounds, there is over 17,000 hectares in forestry. The Sounds are very special to us. Our Council considers them to be the 'Jewel in the Crown' of the many beautiful natural areas we have throughout Marlborough.

The Sounds are a labyrinth of interconnected waterways, to use Frank Ponder's term, and form iconic land and seascapes which attract many people to live, work and play.

We rely on good water quality and healthy sea life to support hundreds of jobs in aquaculture, tourism and farming.

The theme of this workshop is also about interconnection – Connection Matters. This is because what we do on land, and in water, affects the health of the Sounds ecosystems.

Council and the community are concerned with the decline in ecological health of the Sounds. We are starting to get a picture of how the Sounds have changed over time from the investment we have made in our coastal science and monitoring programme.

Some of that research will be discussed this afternoon. Council invests in research as we believe that effective resource management is dependent on accurately defining environmental issues. That way we can focus our energies on working together on solutions.

The work we have done recently has shown that our planning framework has not been totally successful in reducing sediment from different land-uses over time. This includes managing fine sediment from forestry harvesting and replanting.

We recently notified the Marlborough Environmental Plan in 2016, and have received many submissions on the forestry provisions. When we completed those provisions, we didn't have the benefit of scientific studies that have just been published, or the work that SCION is soon to complete for us.

We also acknowledge that there is a National Environmental Standard for Plantation Forestry in development, and await with interest whether it will enable us to introduce bespoke forestry rules for the Sounds.

I look forward to the information to be presented today, and especially the discussion.

Thank you, no mai, haere mai.