Opinion

In the face of deforestation

Hugh Stevenson and Euan Mason
Photos by Euan Mason

What does it take to deforest? Here are some steps along the way.

STEP ONE: Begin with a semi-mature stand.

STEP TWO: Harvest it.

Can't hide it - Passengers on Air New Zealand get a ringside seat.

STEP THREE: Harvesting of young stands leaves plenty of slash.

STEP TWO: Harvest it.
(Then there is the fencing, machinery, yards, staff, stock, water supply, shelter, weeds, re-pasturing, maintenance fertiliser, staff housing.)

Rough cost of conversion: $6000/ha to first sown down pasture.