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Autumn 2018

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Global trends augur well for tree market future

Standing in a wool shed in the Bay of Plenty a couple of weeks ago amongst a group of Australasian foresters and farmers someone asked the question – how certain are we about the forestry market when we need to look 25 years in to the future?

It's a good question. The future is highly uncertain for all primary producers, given the speed and fundamental nature of some of the changes we are contemplating. Forestry investment decisions require an additional level of faith because they are long term and less easily undone once made.

Two pivotal mega trends are underway.

Firstly, tools and technology will revolutionise our world in a way that some are describing as a more fundamental shift than the industrial revolution. Entire industries will be created or transformed in time frames measured in years rather than decades. The quantum leap forward is generated not so much by distinct emerging clever technologies, but by those technologies connecting and exchanging data (the internet of things). This includes everything from smart sensors and 3D printing to synthetic biology, nanotechnology and advanced robotics.

This current revolution will empower and liberate but also leave us uncertain about jobs, traditional primary production and political and social stability.

Secondly, there is the global response to the environmental challenges on planet Earth.

The new international vernacular refers to the bio-economy and the circular economy – terms which have yet to become mainstream in New Zealand. In other words moving away from finite and linear consumption to economies that are built on non-extractive, renewable resources that are utilised for as long as possible, and then recovered and reborn as new products or materials.

FOLLOWING PRIMARY USE IN STRUCTURE, THERE ARE MANY SECONDARY OR TERTIARY USES FOR TIMBER CONSTRUCTION WASTE THAT RETAIN ITS VALUE.

Both of these trends augur very well for the future of trees and a fibre industry. Forestry is infinitely renewable. All other construction materials are extractive. And following primary use in structure, there are many secondary or tertiary uses for timber construction waste that retain its value.

Then there is the world of non-timber products. The global bio-products market, at over \$100 billion, offers enormous future expansion for “fibre farmers” be it trees or agricultural crops. These renewable biochemicals and biomaterials opportunities are not always intuitive and comprise a bewildering array of applications in wine corks, glue, chewing gum, cleaners, anti-freeze, paint, aspirin, food additives, shoe polish, LCD panels, sponges, medical and dental implants, textiles, auto parts, and insulation foam.

An advantage of bioproducts is that they provide a way to generate more value from trees while minimising waste. Even the sawdust and wood chips left over from milling and other forestry processes can be used to create bioproducts. And, when used as a substitute for non-renewable materials and energy sources, bioproducts can help reduce dependence on fossil fuels, cut greenhouse gas emissions and minimise environmental impacts from industrial operations.

It is clear that while timber will remain an important product for the industry, it will sit alongside a suite of other potential

sources of income and there needs to be a focus on utilisation of the whole tree. This diversification parallels a similar diversification that is taking place in the wood processing sector.

The market for newsprint and printing and writing paper continues to shrink as more consumers turn to digital media in place of print. The response by a number of companies has been to reinvent themselves. Considerable research is now underway to expand pulp mills into biorefineries where the pulp residues can be used to make new bioproducts.

I listened recently to the Vice President of UPM, the world's largest graphics paper producer, describe how the company had concluded that their involvement in the paper market was a “burning platform” despite the market for packaging and tissue continuing to grow. Their response has been to diversify into the production of high quality, advanced biofuels for transport.

The company has, and will, commit billions of dollars to this journey. This is underpinned by their confidence in two influences. Firstly, even with global reductions in Greenhouse Gas emissions, and the advent of electric vehicles, transport emissions are expected to grow significantly and will need to be reduced by 80% to meet 2050 targets. Secondly, their government's biofuel policies, without which the economics of biofuel will not work, are here to stay. The Finnish bioenergy goal was recently revised upwards from 40% bioenergy by 2030 to 53%, which suggests they are right.

Meanwhile, the traditional production and consumption of industrial roundwood for the construction market (i.e. wood-based



Bioplastic composites containing wood fibre. Photo: Scion.

panels and sawnwood) has grown strongly in most regions over the past five years. But new opportunities are emerging there too.

Timber excels where strength (or stiffness) to weight is more important than absolute strength. Recent UK construction sector studies have shown that off-site panellised modular timber frame systems can save up to 50% of embodied carbon and 35% of embodied energy when compared to traditional residential building methods and materials.

Other benefits include reduced waste, faster installation time, reduced disturbance for neighbours, and lower costs. New products, such as wood plastic composites, have also shown exceptional growth (e.g. in China) primarily for decking.

In the past decade, a handful of timber buildings six storeys and higher have been constructed as engineers begin to look at building much taller with timber. Complexity increases with height and creating mega buildings with plant material may require properties that do not yet exist in timber. This offers exciting research opportunities.

Sumitomo Forestry has plans for a 350-metre 70-storey building in Tokyo made mostly of indigenous wood (8000 wooden houses' worth). That's taller than the Sky Tower in Auckland including the mast and 6.5 times higher than the world's current tallest wooden building.

Due in 2041, to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the company, this is a commitment to the bio-economy, and a statement of Sumitomo's confidence in the continuing evolution of wood technology.

Foliage connected via balconies will cover the outside of the building with the company promoting the concept of cities that become forests in their own right. Which raises a question about how buildings like the 57-storey shiny glass and steel apartment building now going up in Auckland will be viewed in the future. The last of the old world?

Parts of the timber in the Sumitomo building will be replaced from time to time and this will then be reprocessed firstly to housing materials and then to other products. Residual wood will be used for biomass power. Hence we are back to the circular economy. The Japanese government is supporting this investment by itself committing, via legislation, to promoting the use of wood in public buildings

The bio-economy, and the circular economy, are a way of living and once embraced it necessarily requires investment and policy decisions to make it a reality. But the policy needs to send the right signals as the Sumitomo and UPM examples illustrate. It also needs to be durable. That's a big ask when dealing with three-year election cycles but that is the consistency required when dealing with the time frames that global

economic and environmental transitions necessitate. The commitments need to be bi-partisan and outside direct government influence where possible.

The latest report from the Productivity Commission provides very clear and quantified direction on where New Zealand must go if we want to achieve what we say we want to achieve with our carbon reduction goals. The Commission's credentials can be added to those of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, the cross-party Vivid Economics report last year, Pure Advantage New Zealand, the Emissions Trading Scheme review panel and the OECD Environmental Performance of New Zealand.

Just in case anyone missed the message – establish an independent body, effect land use change, address transport emissions, integrate agriculture and let the emissions trading scheme do the job it was set up for.

Internationally the UN Forestry Department, with support from the World Bank and WWF amongst others, has launched the programme SW4SW (Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World) to raise awareness of the role of forest products in meeting the global Sustainable Development Goals which New Zealand along with 192 other countries signed up to just over two years ago along with an agenda for achieving them by 2030.

The message is clear, here and offshore, that the new future that everyone is striving for goes hand in hand with a big role for forests and their products.



DAVID RHODES
CHIEF EXECUTIVE, FOA

Harvesting companies' certification and mechanisation brings safer harvesting

Mechanised Cable Harvesting (MCH), in Nelson, was the first of now 15 companies to become certified Safetree forestry contractors under Safetree.

MHC's Nathan Taylor says MHC had no objective in being the first to sign, but rather the company saw certification as a great tool to really come to grips with what health and safety really means.

"I quite like the certification process. It takes away from the old ACC model of the paperwork side of things – I find monotonous."

"Don't get me wrong, you have to have the paperwork, but health and safety is about the people."

"A real critical part for us is we try to engage our guys on the ground. We put in a lot of responsibility to look after themselves and their fellow workmates and place of work."

Nathan Taylor says individual responsibility through the crew is important.

"If we see someone doing things that probably are not quite right, it's being the intervention to step in and say 'that's not the way we do things around here.'"

The National Safety Director of the Forest Industry Safety Council (FISC) Fiona Ewing says more than 100 other harvesting contractors are in the FISC directed certification process.

"Most contractors have to comply with safety standards set by forest owners and managers and pass safety audits. But until now there was no single certification system that applied across the industry."

"Safetree Contractor Certification provides that industry-wide recognition. Certification will help lift safety standards – which is good for contractors, for workers and for forest owners and managers," Fiona Ewing says.

FISC also runs the Safetree.nz website, which provides tailor-made safety information for forest workers.



Technologies making steepland harvesting safer

Forestry is still a high-risk job. Seven forest workers were killed on the job last year in forest or machine operations. In 2013, ten workers died, leading to the Independent Forestry Safety Review, which recommended creating certification schemes for contractors and workers.

Using the rate of serious injuries to obtain a statistically significant measurement of forest safety, forestry is getting safer. In large part this can be attributed to increasing mechanisation.

Machines have been an integral part of forest operations for the past two decades. While trees were routinely felled with chainsaws, every ground-based crew had

65%

BY 2016 THE PROPORTION OF MACHINE OPERATORS HAD INCREASED TO ABOUT 65% OF THE LOGGING WORKFORCE

at least a skidder and a loader and every hauler crew had at least a hauler and loader. One out of three crews had a mechanical processor.

In 2009 machine operators were about 42% of the logging workforce of about 3,900. By 2016 the proportion of machine operators had increased to about 65% of the logging workforce of about 3,300 workers.

Thus two-thirds of our harvesting operators are now working inside specialised logging machines, up from just over 40% about 10 years ago.

Not only did the workforce decrease and the percent of machine operators increase over the past decade, but the volume of harvest also went up. In 2009 the harvest was 22 million m³. In 2016 it was 28.5 million m³.

Increased mechanisation has led to both fewer workers being exposed to hazards and a significant increase in forest productivity.



"IF WE SEE SOMEONE DOING THINGS THAT PROBABLY ARE NOT QUITE RIGHT, IT'S BEING THE INTERVENTION TO STEP IN AND SAY 'THAT'S NOT THE WAY WE DO THINGS AROUND HERE.'"
MHC'S NATHAN TAYLOR



NES-PF operational

The National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry (NES-PF) came into force on 1 May. Forest owners need to be aware of what their responsibilities are under the new regulations.

The new nationally consistent regulations replace many regional and district council plan provisions for plantation forestry activities. Many of the permitted activity conditions are based on existing good management practice standards.

The NES-PF covers eight core activities in the life-cycle of a plantation forest. Most forestry activities are permitted by the NES-PF provided foresters meet the permitted activity conditions. If not, they will need to apply to their council for a resource consent.

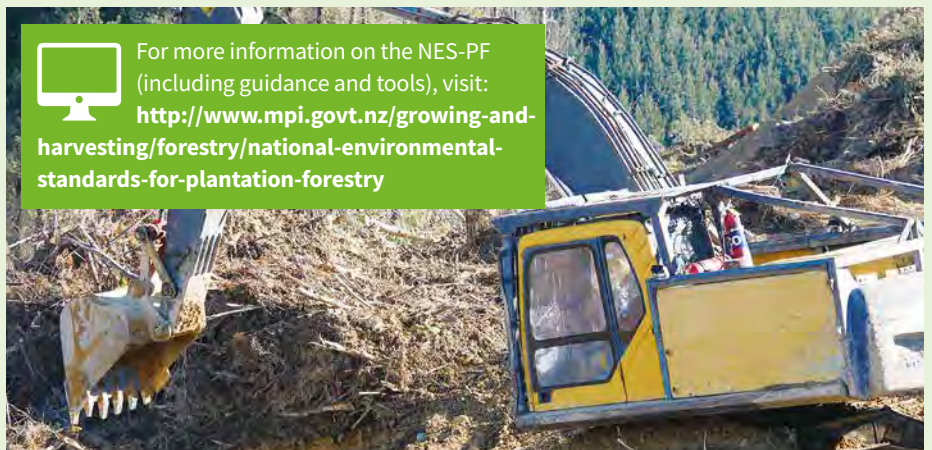
The NES-PF allows council plan rules to be more stringent in specific circumstances to manage locally significant or sensitive areas and to give effect to certain national policy statements.

Three risk assessment tools are provided to determine when a resource consent will be needed. These tools identify the risk of wilding conifer spread (Wilding Tree Risk Calculator), erosion (Erosion Susceptibility Classification), and disturbance to waterways while fish are spawning (Fish Spawning Indicator).

Under the NES-PF plantation foresters will need to familiarise themselves with the requirements for each forestry activity and understand how the tools apply to their own land.

When operating under the permitted activity conditions, foresters need to give councils written notice of commencement of certain plantation forestry activities between 20 and 60 working days before the planned start date, and will need to be able to supply a pre-prepared forestry earthworks management plan, a harvest plan, or quarry erosion and sediment management plan for those activities, should the council request it.

New land planting (afforestation) in the 2018 season requires that a notice of



For more information on the NES-PF (including guidance and tools), visit: <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/growing-and-harvesting/forestry/national-environmental-standards-for-plantation-forestry>

commencement be sent to councils, while both new planting and replanting of red zones of more than 2ha requires a resource consent from the relevant council.

There was little time to obtain a consent for either new planting or replanting of red zones, so FOA recommended that foresters look to commence these activities prior to 1 May which may have enabled them to have existing use rights under RMA Section 20A, provided the relevant requirements in this section were met.

Note that existing use rights under RMA Section 20A which relate to regional consent requirements are limited in duration and a resource consent will still need to be applied for no later than six months after the NES-PF comes into force when this is required under the NES-PF.

To help foresters meet their responsibilities, the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has produced further guidance on the NES-PF which is available for download from the MPI website. NES-PF Forest Practice Guides will soon be available from the FOA web site.

Over the past months MPI hosted more than 500 foresters and council staff at regional workshops to explain foresters' responsibilities under NES-PF.

A second more 'hands-on' series of workshops is being planned in partnership with the New Zealand Institute of Forestry. For more information on these workshops email; NES-PFconsultation@mpi.govt.nz

Oliver Hendrickson, Director Spatial, Forestry and Land Management, says NES-PF provides greater certainty for the sector.

"The general feeling is that the long-term benefits for both the environment and forest sector productivity are welcomed by the forestry industry and local authorities."

FOA President and former Environment Committee chair Peter Weir says that the bar has been raised for all forest owners.

"This has added extra cost but equally will produce better outcomes for spawning and migratory fish and for ground nesting birds, and should alleviate concern about wilding conifer spread from new plantings."

"What's regrettable though is that the NES-PF did not require Significant Natural Areas to be assessed and mapped by District Councils. Relying on Significance Criteria has left the door open for the same old RMA plan churn, with its attendant high legal, planning and expert witness costs, so we really aren't any further ahead" Peter Weir says.



ForestWood 2018: Forestry is “truly in the spotlight”

“We are truly in the spotlight,” said outgoing WoodCo chair Brian Stanley, opening ForestWood 2018 in Wellington in March. But he asked whether the New Zealand forestry sector is up for its share of the ambitious challenge set for it by the new Government to grow and harvest a billion trees.

Around 230 delegates gathered in Wellington on 21 March – fittingly the UN’s International Day of Forests – for the pan-sector conference. Jointly hosted by the Forest Owners Association (FOA), Wood Processors and Manufacturers Association (WPMA) and the Forest Industry Contractors Association (FICA), ForestWood 2018 was held at Te Papa Tongarewa, the Museum of New Zealand.

“A billion trees will reshape and diversify landscapes (for the better), supply the material to build 100,000 new, affordable homes, revive hi-tech manufacturing in the regions, drive research and development and be the base of new bio-products.

“Are we up for this challenge?” he asked.

He pointed to the industry’s ambitious growth target, to double the value of exports to \$12 billion by 2022, and the need for New Zealand’s trade policy to keep non-tariff barriers in its sights.

The sector needs to be “extremely careful with its social licence and keep a very close eye on the triple bottom line,” he said.



WoodCo chair Brian Stanley “The forestry sector needs to be extremely careful with its social licence to operate.”

\$6 BILLION

BASED ON A 33.5 MILLION M³ HARVEST, NEW ZEALAND FOREST EXPORTS IN THE YEAR TO JUNE 2018 WILL EXCEED \$6 BILLION FOR THE FIRST TIME

ONE BILLION TREES: THE PLAN

New Minister of Forestry and Regional Economic Development, Shane Jones, outlined the three reasons for the Labour/ NZ First’s coalition government’s proposed transformation of the forestry sector.

These are:

1. To make sure foreign direct investment ‘is for New Zealand as well;’ rather than buying international credits
2. To dedicate capital within New Zealand to meet this country’s Paris Agreement climate change commitments; and
3. To bring Māori and their land back into the productive economy, alongside representing valuable environmental services.

The One Billion Tree planting challenge is supported by \$1 billion a year for the next three years to “contribute to the costs of actually getting the trees in the ground,” the Minister explained.

There are issues ahead, including the Overseas Investment Office (OIO) process, Jones acknowledged. He urged industry to contribute to the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)’s draft Cabinet Paper on the sector.

Jones believes the biggest challenge will be enticing as many landowners as possible to plant trees in the face of climate change adjustments and a huge, ‘not well managed’, debate about land-use and water in New Zealand.



Forestry Minister Shane Jones “I am an industry man... but also a Māori and a politician... The new Forestry Agency, extracted from MPI, will have a Māori name, Te Uru Rākau, which means ‘chief tree’, or in Jones’ case ‘big stick.’”



Chief executive of PrefabNZ Pamela Bell says New Zealand’s current housing shortage is prefab’s opportunity. “How will we do it, with traditional construction in New Zealand?”



NZIER deputy chief executive John Ballingall argued that with its saving record, New Zealand needs foreign direct investment (FDI) to boost businesses and the economy to improve living standards and support local economies.



Federated Farmers Vice President Andrew Hoggard “Never call me a ‘land banker’... Partner with farmers to show the opportunity of forestry for their businesses.”

PARTNER WITH FARMERS TO ACHIEVE WHAT THEY NEED

Manawatu dairy farmer and now Vice President of Federated Farmers, Andrew Hoggard, objected at the outset to the conference programme describing farmers as a land-bank for potential forestry.

But, he says that understood and approached the right way farmers would be amenable to planting trees.

Federated Farmers’ work on climate adaptation has established an average of around six percent of a sheep and beef farm’s total land area could be used for carbon sequestration with minimal impact on farm production.

“Some farms may be much more, others less,” he said. For dairy, around 15 trees per hectare was a good figure.

Forestry should look at ways it can partner with them to achieve the sorts of things



SOLUTIONS

Ways that forestry can partner with farmers to achieve what farmers might want to do on-farm with trees.

farmers might want to do on-farm with trees. These include for: shade/shelter and boundary fences; climate change carbon capture; biosecurity; biodiversity; erosion control; water quality; and, finally, firewood.

As New Zealand is one of the world’s best food producers at low carbon cost, he said, “it makes more sense to take food production out of the hands of the worst producers around the globe and plant trees there rather than New Zealand.”

“Change the dialogue”, Hoggard urged. “Sheep and beef farmers, in particular, are feeling ‘really, really threatened’ by forestry, which is potentially competing for their productive hill country.”

“Offer them opportunities, not scare them.”

CONVINCE IWI AND HAPŪ TREES MAKE SENSE

Roughly 500,000 ha could be available for forestry on Māori land, Totiu Te Waonui director and ForestX director Kim von Lanthen told ForestWood. But this will mean convincing the sector's major landlords that forestry makes economic sense for iwi and showing hapū that co-planting their preferred indigenous trees alongside exotics, where they eventually own the trees, can work for them and produce jobs.

Seventy-five percent of forestry estate is freehold iwi land, yet iwi only actually own five percent of trees. Furthermore, research has shown, "Your biggest landlord isn't particularly interested," he said.

"Very roughly, we could look at an extra 500,000 ha coming into the forestry sector for plantation forests, which grows the pie for all of us in this room quite significantly," he postulated.

At hapū level, the very strong and passionate aversion to pine trees and introduced species, "is not to be underestimated," said von Lanthen, adding this is what has driven decision-making to date.

He suggested co-planting with some of the species in which they are interested – including short rotation span species, such as mānuka – will be of interest. If, in eight to nine years, the hapū could own the trees, "Then they realise the power is in their hands and they can make decisions about where the trees go."

The potential for 3,960 jobs is, "ultimately, how you win them over," said von Lanthen.



Totiu Te Waonui director Kim von Lanthen says In 2017, forestry accounted for 0.6% of New Zealand's GDP and that could be raised to 0.8% by bringing 500,000 ha of Māori land into the forestry sector.

"WE CAN'T DO IT BY OURSELVES"

Foreign direct investment (FDI) in New Zealand has always been a delicate topic, the New Zealand Institute of Economic Research deputy chief executive John Ballingall ventured.

However, with its saving record, New Zealand needs FDI to boost businesses and the economy to improve living standards and support local economies, he argued.

FDI's main benefit is capital to fund New Zealand's growth. The growth can reduce production costs through economies of scale, lift competitiveness, provide new technology and fresh ways of working, he said. All this also supports productivity.

The costs – returns going offshore and a degree of loss of control over resources – have to be weighed up against the benefits and alternatives, he added.

IT'S WOOD FIRST FOR ROTORUA

Forestry, worth \$623 million to the Rotorua region, is important to "the city in the heart of the forest".

So much so, its Council, led by Mayor Steve Chadwick put a stake in the ground and introduced New Zealand's first Wood First policy in 2017 as part of a drive to become a sustainable city. This means its new buildings, amenities – and even sculptures – need to consider including wood.

The first project, a new library, opened a month ago and the Council is also discussing incorporating wood into new inner-city housing.

Design work is also underway on a new mountain biking centre and spa that will become the largest wooden structure in New Zealand.

75%

SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF FORESTRY ESTATE IS FREEHOLD IWI LAND, YET IWI ONLY ACTUALLY OWN FIVE PERCENT OF TREES

6.5

MILLION TREE SEEDLINGS

GOVERNMENT HAS DIRECTLY FUNDED 6,515,000 TREE SEEDLINGS COMMITTED FOR PLANTING IN 2018

\$623

MILLION

FORESTRY IS WORTH \$623 MILLION TO THE ROTORUA REGION

Te Uru Rākau - the promise of many things

Growing trees. Growing the economy. Te Uru Rākau is focused on supporting the planting of exotic and indigenous forests, sustainable forestry management, programmes like the Emissions Trading Scheme, and forestry grants.



The presence of Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern sent a strong government signal to the industry that Te Uru Rākau is supported at the highest political level and it's not just a project by Forestry Minister Shane Jones.

The launch of Te Uru Rākau – Forestry New Zealand, in Rotorua in early May, has delivered the first part of the government's one of four new business units to operate under the Ministry for Primary Industries' umbrella.

Te Uru Rākau is the only one of the four new units; Food Safety, Biosecurity and Fisheries, to have its head office outside of Wellington.

Shane Jones says this will build a strong and dedicated forestry presence in Rotorua, "recognising that Rotorua is at the heart of the forestry sector in New Zealand... the first

step in re-establishing a forestry service in New Zealand."

The old New Zealand Forest Service was dismantled in 1987, but Shane Jones has already publicly agreed that he sees Te Uru Rākau setting up regional residential forestry training hubs based on a revamp of the old Forest Service Woodsman multi-skill training schools, which generated many of today's contractors and forest managers.

Shane Jones announced \$15 million of operating funds to boost the capability of the new service "enabling it to work with

landowners, provide forestry expertise and deliver on the Government's forestry objectives."

Te Uru Rākau's location, next to the Scion campus in forestry friendly Rotorua, is both logical and desirable. FOA looks forward to a new showcase multi-storey cross laminated timber building appearing on the site.

The final size, structure and governance of Te Uru Rākau has yet to be determined by the government.

Forest Advisory Group has range of backgrounds and interests

Forestry Minister Shane Jones' Advisory Group of ten experts has been announced with a broad range of backgrounds and interests to drive the industry forward and assist in the Billion Trees plan of forest expansion.

The immediate past CEO of Scion, Dr Warren Parker, will chair the group. Dr Parker also chairs the Conservation Authority and sits on the board of a number of conservation bodies.

His deputy is James Palmer who represents local government as the CEO of the Hawkes Bay Regional Council.

Māori forest interests are evident through Gina Solomon from Ngāi Tahu with conservation interests particularly in Kaikōura and Dr Charlotte Severne from Ngāti Tūwharetoa who chairs the Lake Rotoaira Forest Trust.

The priority of training in the forest industry is demonstrated through the presence of Fiona Kingsford, CEO of Competenz.

Farm Forestry President Neil Cullen is also in the group.

Brian Stanley, the outgoing chair of WoodCo and previous GM of Oji Fibre Solutions, will bring this experience from the processing end of the forest industry.

Forest owner points of view will be expressed through FOA CEO David Rhodes, Robert Green, the CEO of Timberlands and Henare Walker, GM of Summit Forests.



Robert Green



David Rhodes



Henare Walker

FOA takes message to Takaka

Representing FOA, Kit Richards told a panel discussion at Living Wood at Takaka in Golden Bay in late April that the economics of growing indigenous timbers to harvest needed to take into account the long rotation of such species as tōtara.

Planting native trees was a popular theme at the event, as it increasingly is in many parts of New Zealand as a yet unquantified component of the Billion Trees plan.

But Kit Richards said, while returns from some indigenous trees might turn out to be much higher than radiata pine, the opportunity cost in waiting a number of decades to harvest native species counted against them as a commercial proposition.

FOA participation at Living Wood, an event to celebrate wood use in all sorts of ways, followed immediately after the destruction in the district wrought by Cyclone Gita in late February.

Locals however observed that even pristine native forests did not fare well in that storm and some of this in the DoC estate was even more devastated when Cyclone Fahi went through the region earlier in February.

Agriculture Minister Damien O'Connor also told the panel forum that it was a 'scandal' that more of Christchurch hadn't been reconstructed from wood following the 2011 earthquake, that concrete and steel constructions are carbon emitters, and that Labour had campaigned on a wood-first policy.



1



2

1. Living Wood featuring nail-less wood construction
2. Agriculture Minister Damien O'Connor pays close attention to Kit Richard's observations, with DoC's Nelson Operations Manager Andrew Lamason to their right.



NEW PEOPLE IN REGIONAL WOOD COUNCIL LEADERSHIP



Eastland Wood Council CEO, Kim Holland

The Eastland Wood Council’s new CEO, Kim Holland has begun duties in Gisborne, to take over from Prue Younger, who’s taken up the role of CEO of the Forest Industry Contractors Association.

Kim will continue with the development and roll out of the Generation Programme, an industry-led training and skill development programme. Kim has worked with several forestry education-to-employment initiatives including the Forestry Industry Big Day Out in 2015.



Southern North Island Wood Council CEO, Erica Kinder

Meanwhile the Southern North Island Wood Council has a new CEO as well. Erica Kinder is based in Masterton.

Erica was previously a Regional Co Ordinator for Beef + Lamb NZ. Erica hopes to expand the role of the Wood Council in the geographically spread region under the Council’s scope, and in particular really get involved in the high school careers space, along with just generally promoting the forestry sector and working in with as many groups in our Industry as she can.

NEW ASSOCIATE MINISTER OF FORESTRY APPOINTED



Not only does the forest industry have a Forestry Minister again in Shane Jones, but now Meka Whaitiri is his new Associate Minister as well.

She already has her work cut out.

“In my new role I will make sure that Māori who want to use their land for forestry can by establishing much closer partnerships between the Government and the Māori people. I have also been delegated all initiatives for afforestation in the Tairāwhiti and East Coast area.”

“With (my) new responsibility for skills training, I hope to be announcing some Forestry Scholarships at Fieldays this year.”

Australian Forest industry leader likes our farm forestry

The Chair of the Australian Forest Products Association, Greg McCormack, says he’s impressed by how well New Zealand manages its farm forestry.

A delegation from AFPA and the Australian National Farmers Federation toured Central North Island properties recently in conjunction with their New Zealand counterparts.

The Australian ‘Farmonline’ reports Greg McCormack as saying after he returned to Australia that there are a multitude of benefits to farm forestry, “including investment and income diversification for traditional farmers, crop and stock protection and improved water quality on properties.”

“In Australia, we haven’t been as accepting of the practice, but hopefully with the NFF taking a strong and

unprecedented interest, feelings will continue to change.”

Meanwhile the Australian government has committed \$20 million over four years in the just announced Federal Budget to underpin the initial implementation of a National Forest Industries’ Plan.

The Plan includes the goals “to transform farm forestry as a commercial enterprise supplying timber to Australia’s forestry sector and enable the identification, improvement and use of existing forest resources on Indigenous owned and managed land, and privately-owned land.”

Greg McCormack impressed that Scion’s investing in ‘tea-tree’ (Mānuka) research.





GROWING CAREERS

The new government plans to see a billion trees planted in the next ten years – double our present forest planting rate.

There are dedicated facilities to supply this workforce:

- The University of Canterbury's School of Forestry – Degree through to PhD in forestry and forest engineering.
- Toi Ohomai in Rotorua – NZ Certificates in forest management and operations, as well as a Diploma in forest management.
- NorthTec in Whangarei – NZ Certificates in forest skills and harvesting.
- EIT in Gisborne – NZ Certificates in forest harvesting and operations.

Four of the entryways for the whole lot of people we urgently need to fill the ranks of foresters, engineers, scientists, drivers, processors and managers who keep our six-billion-dollar export industry growing.

See the Forest Industry Careers stand, with PICA, at the Careers & Education Hub at the National Fieldays 2018.



www.nzwood.co.nz



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