

A FOREST POLICY FOR NEW ZEALAND

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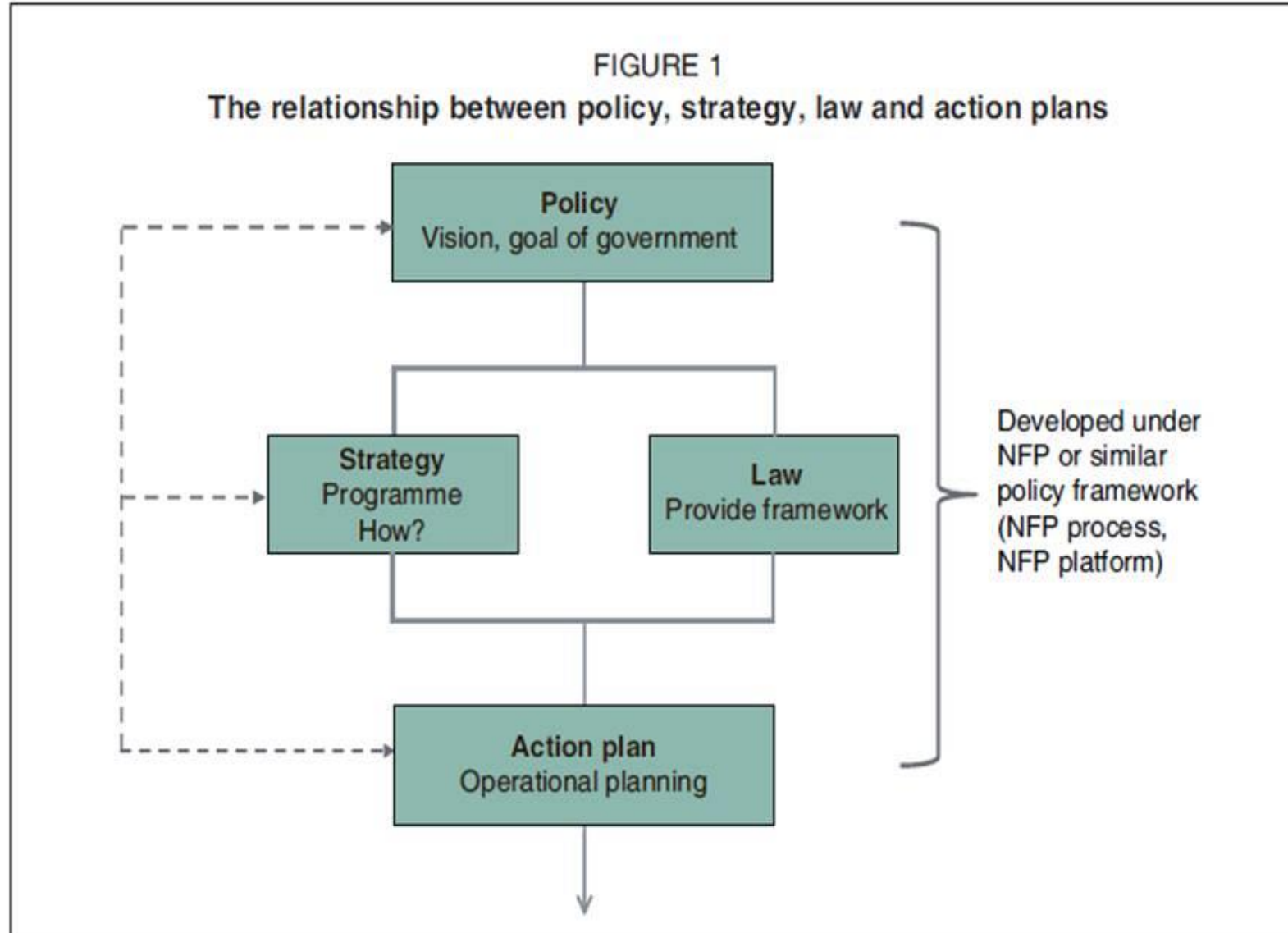
ANZIF Conference, Christchurch, 27 August 2019

FPP AIMS 2014-2018

- FPP was started by a group of forestry professionals concerned at the lack of a comprehensive long-term national forest policy for New Zealand;
- In the absence of a forest policy, successive governments over several decades were implementing short-term, market-led, ad hoc single-issue strategies, some of which were frequently modified;
- By producing a “model national forest policy document” FPP hoped to provoke politicians, officials and others to do something better. We accepted that, however good our policy was, we could not implement it ourselves. It would need government to adopt it and it would need the support of New Zealanders who cared about and were involved in the country’s forests;

DEFINITION OF “POLICY”

(taken from FAO Forestry Paper 161)



FPP Principles

- Comprehensive, long term and durable forest policy for New Zealand;
- Encourage a government to adopt;
- All forests all tenures all species;
- Full spectrum from forests in the ground, through the uses of forests and the associated activities of education, training, research, advisory services;
- Future policy rather than existing policies and issues;
- Defining effects, not restricting solutions;
- Acceptable to a wide range of New Zealanders;
- Show why a forest policy was needed (and why this differed from comprehensive long-term policy for other aspects of the economy and environment);
- Cover linkages across different aspects of forests (e.g., increased use of wood domestically would provide more incentive for processors, and both those would provide more incentive for investment in forest growing)

POLICY ESSENTIALS

- Effective
- Simple
- Free from bias (equitable)
- Relevant to New Zealand
- Comprehensive and cohesive
- Sustainable
- Stable
- Scientifically supportable
- Enforceable.

FOREST POLICY ESSENTIALS

- Long- term view (several decades);
- Recognise the public benefits forests provide to society;
- Encourage, rather than discourage private investment in forests, forest products processing and the use of forest products;
- Recognise the public benefits (particularly environmental) that arise from the use of wood and wood products;
- Recognise the longevity of forests and consequently the need for stability in forest policy;
- Have broad objectives that provide a framework for shorter term strategies and actions for the short term

A FOREST POLICY FOR NZ

Cherishing our trees & forests, which enhance our well-being, our environment & our prosperity

- Released 28 June 2018
- Only 7 pages long
- Introduction + 4 sections
 1. A NZ forest policy (1 policy)
 2. Improve environmental & economic outcomes (2 policies)
 3. Processing and using forest products (1 policy)
 4. Governance & other considerations (1 policy)

POLICY 1:

Protect & enhance the many significant benefits trees & forests provide to the NZ environment, economy, culture & society through developing & implementing a comprehensive & evidence-based national regulatory & decision making environment

FOREST BENEFITS

- Erosion mitigation
- Water quality
- Biodiversity
- Climate regulation
- Recreation & tourism
- Public health benefits
- Employment
- Forest Products
- Economic

POLICY 2

Sustain the benefits trees & forests provide, through measures to reduce the risks they face.

POLICY 3

Increase the contribution trees & forests make to society through a combination of regeneration of indigenous forests, planting new stands of trees and establishing more urban trees & forests

POLICY 4

Encourage domestic processing, domestic use and exports of forest products by implementing stable, evidence-based policies & strategies

POLICY 5

A sound governance environment providing reliable & comprehensive services & infrastructure will be developed to ensure the success of the policies described above.

FOREST POLICY WORKING PARTY

Immediate Tasks

- Finalise membership (3 tier structure)
- Documentation (web page, library of documents, etc.)
- Gathering comments on and reviewing the 7-page document
- Liaison with other policy groups and initiatives
- Develop a longer document (using the 7-page one as an executive summary) to cover fuller information and explanation of the various policies
- Develop a medium term action plan including initiatives around the 2020 NZ election

Concluding Comment

For those interested, copies of “A Forest Policy For New Zealand” are available.

The Working Party would be delighted to receive feedback on the document.

Contact Andrew McEwen (am.mcewen@xtra.co.nz)

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING