

tained yield volumes from the South Westland region, and any other resources available from south of the Cook River;

- (vi) That an area of beech forest, of approximately 100,000 ha, be set aside for a beech utilization scheme which should be both commercially viable and environmentally acceptable.

South Westland — Further debate scheduled

In September 1981 the Minister of Forests and the Minister for the Environment announced the addition of South Okarito and Waikukupa State forests to the Westland National Park; the imposition of a logging moratorium on all State forests south of the Cook River (until 1990), and a decision to establish a plantation forest resource in the region. This afforestation project was seen as a means of compensating for the consequent loss of job opportunities in the native timber industry, and to provide a renewable timber resource for processing in 40 to 50 years' time.

However, in 1982 the decision to establish a substantial plantation forest was rescinded by Cabinet on economic grounds, and was replaced with a much smaller project to provide for plantings of special purpose species. Cabinet also agreed to the establishment of a Treasury-led Officials Committee to review assistance options for the South Westland region.

The resultant "Officials Committee Report on Assistance Options for South Westland" (November 1982) recommended that a study of the forests south of the Cook River commence in sufficient time to permit firm decisions to be made. In a supplementary report ("Supplementary Report of Assistance Options for South Westland" (July 1983)) the Officials Committee reiterated



Thinned second-growth beech forest at Hukawai, Westland.

ated this earlier recommendation, stating; "... that the multi-disciplinary research effort necessary to enable classification of the forests south of the Cook River presently under moratorium should be accelerated to enable decisions to be taken on at least the northernmost forests in the area in 1986".

The South Westland Management Evaluation Programme was the outcome of this recommendation. It focused on Crown-owned forested land and attempted to assess the resources and potential opportunities of the region. It was organized by the Forest Service and the Department of Lands and Survey, with assistance from other government agencies, notably the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and Wildlife Service.

During the week commencing February 16, 1987 a forum was staged in Hokitika which was attended by 80-85 people. The forum purpose was to enable researchers to present the results of their fieldwork and make some suggestions about future management prospects for the South Westland region beyond the Cook River. The forum also debated opportunities for nature conservation, mineral exploitation, timber production, further agricultural development and tourism.

Adopting the mechanism used north of the Cook River, Government has charged the Secretary for the Environment with the task of convening a further working party to pick up where the South Westland Management Evaluation Programme left off and make recommendations to Government on the future use and management of the publicly-owned forest south of the Cook. The Secretary for the Environment is due to report to Government with his recommendations later this year.

J.C. Halkett

THE 56TH ANZAAS SCIENCE CONGRESS — SCIENCE IN A CHANGING SOCIETY

The 56th ANZAAS Science Congress was a spotty affair. Doubtless there was much good science here and there but there were few solid sessions devoted to any one discipline or any one sphere of scientific activity. Sociology and geography seemed to dominate: indeed forestry was linked with geography as one of the major Congress "Interest Groups". The forestry programme, well organized by Michael Roche, was coherent and substantial and perhaps for this reason attracted good attendances. The Forestry sessions covered "Social and Economic Perspectives", "Economic Models and Modelling", "Agroforestry" and "Markets and Marketing". A full list of papers together with abstracts of some will appear in "In Our Contemporaries".

A.P.T.

A POLITICAL FIRE?

Did you know that in Canterbury:

- The Ministry of Forestry has the statutory responsibility for fire control, but no men or equipment!
 - The Department of Conservation has the central fire depot and has plenty of equipment but no men!
 - The Forestry Corporation has some equipment but few firefighters!
- If there is a fire let's hope it will burn red tape rather than trees!

(See Comment by A.N. Cooper, Vol. 31/1, May 1986).

West Coast Land Use (Indicative)

	%
Urban	0.1
Freehold (inc. private plantation forest 0.2% — Inalienated)	10.6
Temporary Crown Lease	1.9
Land Development (Landcorp)	1.4
Maori Land	0.2
Indigenous Production — Forest (Forestcorp)	5.3
Plantation Production — Forest (Forestcorp)	0.8
Protection Forest, Reserves, NPs — Inalienated Crown Land *	79.7

*This includes land south of the Cook River for which final allocations have still to be made.