

RECENT EVENTS

Report of review committee on education and training in the forest industry

Chaired by M.C. Probine, this three-person committee reported back to Government in September. The report looked at the training required by the forest industry from the degree level down. Its major conclusions were:

1. The number of forestry graduates required by New Zealand industries could drop from 24 per year to 16 or 17. There were no grounds for believing that the demand will increase to a level to justify a teaching staff of 12.
2. There are market pressures for widening the choice of subjects available within the degree (e.g. economics, business, marketing, harvesting, wood products).
3. The School of Forestry might be better transferred to the University of Waikato because it would
 - be near the 'centre of gravity' of the forestry industry
 - fit into the University of Waikato's regional responsibility
 - blend with that University's teaching and research expertise in 'rural land use'
 - be close enough to FRI Rotorua to stimulate co-operation
 - be easier to facilitate increased practical experience as part of the degree.

The Committee recommended that the University Grants Committee look into this option.

4. There was need for the NZ Certificate of Forestry in addition to the degree, and the annual requirement for graduates with this training was expected to be 21 to 26.
5. The course content for the certificate should be revised so that it complements rather than competes with the degree. The emphasis could be on people management, commercial operations and conversion.
6. It was recommended that this course, and those taught by the Timber Industry Training Centre (TITC), be transferred from the Ministry of Forestry to the Waiariki Polytechnic (Department of Education).
7. There was a need for a Forestry Advisory Committee to advise Waiariki Polytechnic.
8. Better use should be made of the

Technical Correspondence Institute, and perhaps of 'distance learning' techniques.

9. Operator training was also an area of concern. It was recommended that the Accident Compensation Corporation be asked to investigate if it was practical to penalize companies with poor accident records. Also it was suggested that the Logging Industry Research Association and Forest Industry Training Board should see if there is merit in developing financial guidelines which would favour contractors using certificated staff. The Access programme was also drawn to the industry's attention.

10. Recommendations were made regarding NZ Forest Service trainees part way through their training.

After asking for comment by interested parties Government noted that officials and the key sector organizations support the broad thrust of the report's recommendations, and recognize the importance of a combination of a reformed university and technical training in the forestry sector. They directed discussions by the Secretary of Forestry with the University Grants Committee and the formation of a working party to prepare a possible co-ordinated implementation plan of the

Hydrogen peroxide plant for NZ?

Du Pont New Zealand Limited is to evaluate the feasibility of building a hydrogen peroxide plant in New Zealand.

According to the Managing Director of Du Pont New Zealand Limited, Mr Max C. Lloyd-Jones, the pulp and paper industry is the single largest market for hydrogen peroxide, and the use of the chemical in pulp bleaching is growing faster than the industry itself because of the need to produce higher-quality paper and paperboard at lower cost.

A New Zealand plant would provide the industry with a reliable local and cost effective source of hydrogen peroxide.

recommendations. This working party should report back at the end of February 1988.

The Institute's comment on this report is on page 26 and Dr S.D. Richardson has provided independent comment on page 2.

Society of Tropical Foresters – new Director

Dr S.D. (Dennis) Richardson, a Forestry Adviser working from Motueka (New Zealand) who retired two years ago as Director of the New Zealand Forestry Council, has been appointed "Director-at-Large" of the International Society of Tropical Foresters, an organization based in Maryland, USA. The Society has a membership drawn from more than 100 countries and, in addition to three Regional Directors (Africa, Asia and Latin America), has three Directors-at-Large.

Dr Richardson is the first New Zealander to be appointed a Director.

Fiji sawmill opens

Tropik Wood Industries Ltd commissioned their Drasa Mill on May 15 this year. The mill is designed to handle 225,000 m³ of logs each year, producing sawn timber, wood chips and post and pole material. The \$F35 million complex is jointly owned by the Fiji Pine Commission (51%), British Petroleum S.W. Pacific (29%), by Commonwealth Development Corporation (10%) and European Investment Bank (10%). The mill draws upon the Fiji Pine Commission's 47,000 ha *Pinus caribaea* plantations.

CONSULTANTS CO-OPERATE

The Australian and New Zealand forest industry consulting firms of Fortech (Canberra) and Chandler Fraser Keating (Rotorua) have announced a closer association in their consulting activities. This relationship will provide access to a wider range of expertise in both trans-Tasman and overseas consulting activities.