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INSTITUTE NEWS

NZIF comment on 'Report of the Review Committee on Education and Training in the Forest Industry'

The Institute believes that the Review Committee have adopted an overly simplistic, narrow approach to the issues. Their approach is dominated by short-term rather than long-term thinking and is unduly influenced by the uncertainty which characterizes the forestry sector consequent upon the massive disruption of the past two years. The Institute believes that, within a few years, the demand for well-rounded graduates in forestry, forest land management and related disciplines will greatly exceed the pessimistic projections made by the committee. Education and training can provide the linkage between the now separated aspects of administration and management.

Forestry is not simply plantation management. New Zealand has seven million hectares of indigenous forest upon which the demands of man will continue to increase and for whose management the Canterbury School of Forestry provides the only wholly relevant professional qualification currently available.

The Institute cannot find evidence in the report to cause it to depart from its previously expressed and firm view that there isn't any need for a separate NZCF training at a quasi degree level.

The School of Forestry would be better to formally combine with the other land and the forest management related disciplines at Canterbury and Lincoln College. There will then be increased numbers of students coming from a combination of technical, technological and other broad-based land management disciplines, perhaps in a "Department of Natural Resources".

The Institute is convinced that the educational and training requirements of forestry in the broadest sense can best be met by such an approach. In the circumstances the School would be able to justify the necessary numbers of staff to teach the wide range of disciplines involved.

The Institute is convinced that the transfer of the School to Waikato and the continuation of a separate NZCF in Rotorua would lead to a narrowing of the course substance to plantation management only, to fewer students and even greater difficulty in obtaining adequate staffing than the school has experienced in Canterbury.

P.J. Thode
President

FORSOC NEWS

For the students at the School of Forestry this has certainly been an interesting year. The departmental shake-up that now affects our future employment so much was not even a speculative rumour back when most of us chose Forestry as a career. Certainly the type of job I was aiming for no longer exists.

And now, more recently (and no doubt a direct result of the shake-up) an education review that proposes just as radical changes to the entire Forestry training and education system. There appears to be as many opinions among students here, on the school's future, as among any other interested group. But if there is one thing that all the students are

in agreement on, it is the need for a greater range of subjects available within the School. This is not easily possible under either the current system or that proposed in the Probine report. Hopefully whatever direction the School moves off in (not necessarily physically) it will maintain its autonomy and develop a solid but broad base of forestry disciplines.

Another issue the students have become involved in is the attempt to save 'our' Ecological Reserve in Ianthe forest. It has been a valuable asset as a study tool during the 2nd Pro field trips for a number of years now but it looks like