



# SENIOR APPOINTMENTS: MINISTRY OF FORESTRY

## Schizophrenic foresters

Sir,

Spare a thought for those foresters who, confronted with the Government's continual change of course, must now be feeling schizophrenic.

First they were required to wind up their Forest Service and remain dutifully mute as it was cruelly reviled by the greenies, Treasury, Government, and the fat cats of industry. They were then asked to introduce Forestry Corporation, where they showed pleasing profit but found that long-term sales set up in the 1950s and enduring till the year 2030 so modified these profits that they could only service a \$1 billion loan to offer for the state plantation forests. The Government thereupon demanded that they commit occupational harakiri by offering the said forests to the highest bidder.

Today we find Forestry Corporation foresters going about their sad salesmanship. They well know that 70 years of enlightened policy and caring planning, plus a reputation for plantation forest management second to none, could all go down the drain. They know that there is no legislation to prevent all manner of reprehensible happenings such as gross overcutting, entire log transfer overseas, and lack of replanting control.

They know that, with both wood yield and export price about to increase dramatically, this is the wrong time to sell the Crown's plantations. They know too that the wily purchasers, using the bogus mystique of conventional timber valuation formulas, will contrive bargain prices.

Here we have all the ingredients for yet another catastrophe in the state-owned enterprise privatisation business. It is not too late for the Government to listen to its own Labour Party hierarchy and the many other voices that denounce this sale. Surely it would be better advised to accept the \$1 billion offer for our national forest estate and let Forestry Corporation continue a management that will see the taxpayer accrue the huge monetary returns of the next several decades.

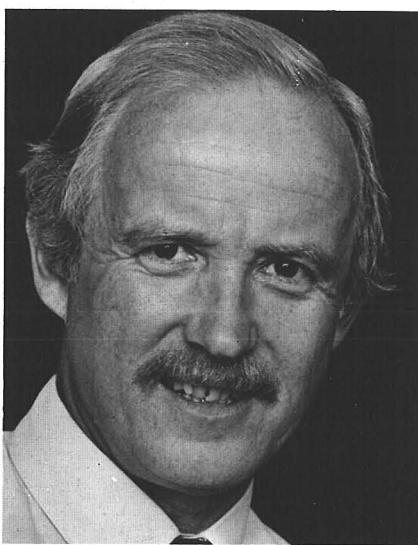
**William Girling-Butcher**

The Ministry of Forestry has appointed Colin O'Loughlin as Assistant Secretary, Research in its Head Office in Wellington. He has replaced Colin Bassett who retired in February and assumed responsibility for the Ministry's research function comprising the Forest Research Institute based at Rotorua and Christchurch with a staff of over 400.

Dr O'Loughlin has been employed by the NZ Forest Service and then the Ministry of Forestry since 1962. He has had a distinguished career as a scientist specialising in soil stability and forest hydrology, with considerable international experience. He is an internationally recognised authority on the influence of forests and forest operations on soil stability.

The Ministry of Forestry has appointed John Handiside as Assistant Secretary, Forestry Services in its Head Office in Wellington. He replaces Robin Cutler, recently appointed Secretary of Forestry.

Mr Handiside has been a career forester with the NZ Forest Service since 1967. He worked in Head Office for three years and in Canterbury Conservancy before moving to Nelson where he spent the bulk of his service in the Forest Service. After a period as Senior Forester, Golden Downs forest, he was promoted to the position of principal forester, Nelson Conservancy, with responsibilities which covered exotic production forestry programmes, men-



**John Handiside, Assistant Secretary, Forestry Services.**



**Colin O'Loughlin, Assistant Secretary, Research.**

suration and resource planning, and Town and Country Planning. After the demise of the Forest Service Mr Handiside was appointed regional manager in the Nelson regional office.

As Assistant Secretary, Mr Handiside is responsible for the Ministry's forestry services to the sector, which are provided on a user-pays basis. These include quarantine, forest health, and administration of the Forest and Rural Fires Act, together with a commercial consultancy operation both national and international.

Mr Handiside is also responsible for the Ministry's six regional offices and the functions of protection; consultancy, including international activity; and quality assurance.

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