

generation of an artificial demand for labour, unlike a demand arising from sound economic expansion, has obvious limitations, and may foster a dependency on the State. At the same time, it is worth noting that there are marginally unprofitable forests, particularly under Crown ownership, in areas such as the East Coast where the level of unemployment is relatively high. There may be options to consider in making private investment in such forests attractive.

Overall the facilitation of higher levels of economically sound investment in forestry provides for a significant and sustainable contribution to society. Analysis suggests that in general New Zealand forestry is economically attractive. Investment in forest establishment, tending and processing operations therefore needs to be encouraged.

TABLE 2: AN INDICATION OF JOBS GENERATED BY AFFORESTATION

Operation and Comments	Age (years)	Man days per hectare
Nursery	0	0.62
Access roading and preparation	0	3.40
Planting	1	2.00
Releasing	2	0.84
Low Pruning	5	2.30
Medium Pruning	7	1.50
Thinning to waste	7	2.00
Pre-harvest forest roads and harvesting (Yield 600 m ³ /ha recoverable)	30	58.24
Sub Total for growing and harvesting		70.90
Supervision and auxiliary @ 10% of subtotal		7.09
Internal transport to NZ factory (120km)		12.00
* Sawmilling (252 m ³ (s))		99.00
* Pulpmilling (180 m ³ making 74.38 tonnes TMP)		15.00
Total days worked up to 1st level processing		204

* = Based on 1980 case-study data

RECENT EVENTS

Implementation of Resource Management law

"The passage of the Resource Management Bill through Parliament marks the beginning of a new era in environmental management for New Zealand," said the Minister for the Environment, Simon Upton, on July 11.

All that remained before the Act became a recognised law was the Royal Assent from the Governor General, Dame Catherine Tizard, which was expected to take about two weeks.

Regulations will be prepared, and the Act will come into force on October 1 of this year.

The Act repeals many of New Zealand's previous resource management laws, including the Town and Country Planning Act, the water and soil legislation, the coastal, mining, geothermal and pollution laws.

"This is the largest piece of legislation to come before the House as a single measure," said the Minister.

"It is not simply an amalgamation of current law; it requires a completely new way of looking at environmental aspects – from a base line of sustainable management of our natural and physical resources.

"It will require New Zealanders to pay attention to the effects on the environment of the actions they take," said Mr Upton.

For the most part, administration of the Act will be the role of local govern-

ment. The Act requires some significant changes to local government planning and decision making procedures.

To smooth the changeover from the old law to the new, provisions to deal with the transition have been built into the Act.

Existing district schemes will roll over and become district plans. When due for review, these plans must be considered in accordance with the new law. All district schemes that roll over must be reviewed within five years.



Simon Upton

Regional councils will need to begin preparing regional policy statements. Existing regional schemes will not be carried over. The Act allows councils a maximum of two years within which to prepare these statements in line with the provisions of the new law.

Instruments in the old regional plans, such as orders and notices relating to land, air and water, and classifications and standards relating to water, will become regional rules.

These regional rules will form the basis of a transitional regional plan to bridge the gap until the new policy statement and additional plans can be prepared.

Existing resource management consents – coastal, planning or mining consents for example – will carry over as they are under the law. Consent reviews, however, must be carried out under the new law.

The Ministry for the Environment will oversee the administration of the new Act. The Ministry will be producing a number of publications and information sheets on aspects of the new law, and staff will be available to answer inquiries.

Local authorities have been preparing for the new law since the introduction of the Bill into Parliament in December 1989 and will be able to assist with specific enquiries.