

SECTOR ISSUES

Sale of New Zealand Timberlands Ltd

Government's intention to sell off all State-owned forests held under the New Zealand Timberlands Ltd banner was announced in the July 1991 Budget. The Timberlands' estate comprises 43 forests totalling approximately 121,000 hectares. The intention is to sell Timberlands as a going concern in a competitive tendering process, though consideration will be given to offers on individual forests.

Joint Venture Study

A report reviewing the structures and restrictions for the establishment of forestry joint ventures has recently been prepared. The report is aimed at encouraging increased investment in rural areas through joint ventures with farmers.

Resource Management Act

The Resource Management Act, which took effect on October 1, 1991, establishes an integrated and consistent structure for the management of natural and physical resources in New Zealand. The Act creates planning, consent and enforcement procedures that are common to most resource uses, including forestry.

Environmental Accord

Conservation groups and the New Zealand Forestry industry have signed an environmental accord intended to preserve natural forests and stop large-scale land clearance for plantation forestry. The accord recognises the need to protect and preserve remaining natural forests and aims to define areas inappropriate for plantation forests, while recognising that commercial forests have a role to play as a renewable source of fibre and energy.

Ministry of Forestry

New General Manager (Policy) for Ministry of Forestry

The Ministry of Forestry has appointed Helen Algar to the position of General Manager (Policy). The appointment follows the promotion of John Valentine to Secretary of Forestry.

Ms Algar's 15 years' experience with the New Zealand Wool Board has given her a strong background in international marketing and policy issues.

Through Ms Algar's appointment the Ministry has gained additional experience in the export market field. A key role for the Ministry is to forge a partnership with the forest industry which is facing a period of tremendous growth.

Ms Algar comes from a textile technology background and has substantial international market development experience. During her time with the Wool Board she also served as Board Secretary and as Manager, Policy Analysis and Research.



Helen Algar

Appointment of establishment unit convenors for CRIs

Dr Frank Wood and Dr Andy Pearce have been appointed as Establishment Unit convenors of the Forestry and Wood Products CRI and the Land Environments CRI.

As convenors they will begin to put into place the basic administrative support systems for CRI establishment boards which are due to be appointed by the end of November.

Dr Wood is the Chief Director of the Forest Research Institute at Rotorua. He has been in this position since June 1991. Dr Wood is an agricultural science graduate from Massey University and has a Ph.D in zoology. He has worked

for DSIR, MAF Technology and MAF Qual. Dr Wood has had a wealth of experience involving reorganisation and implementation of new policies. He works in Rotorua.

Dr Pearce is the Director of the Forest and Wildlands Ecosystems Division of the Forest Research Institute. He is a science graduate with a Ph.D in geological sciences. Dr Pearce has worked as a project geologist for a private company in New Zealand, as a lecturer at a Canadian University and at the Forest Research Institute. He has been at FWE since 1974. Dr Pearce works in Christchurch.

COMMUNITY TASK FORCE

In July the Government announced the setting up of the Community Task Force scheme, a new work experience programme helping job seekers back into employment and carrying out projects that are of value to the community. Job seekers are expected to work for three days a week but could, for example, work six days on end followed by an eight day spell. The idea is to give job seekers a chance to gain new experience, good work habits, a work record, improved self esteem and greater confidence.

To be eligible for the scheme, projects must:

- * be additional to work which would normally be done;

- * not displace existing workers from jobs they are currently doing;
- * be project based (i.e. structured into a finite period);
- * be a minimum period of three months and a maximum period of six months;
- * result in a benefit to the community;
- * not be regular or ongoing maintenance work.

There is scope within the scheme now for Government to provide free labour (but not transport, tools, or materials) to private land holders for projects such as environmentally based protection/production afforestation and perhaps for tending work which would be uneconomic without the help of the Community Task Force scheme.

Because of the associated conserva-

tion benefits afforestation projects over much of the country, most notably the East Coast and the South Island High Country, could qualify for such free labour.

The Ministry of Forestry is exploring the possible role that it could play in the facilitation of afforestation projects under the Community Task Force scheme. It may also be possible to get further financial and material support from agencies such as the local authorities, industry, iwi and environmental groups. Government also has a role in assisting the new Landcare groups that are being established and perhaps providing funding where there may be obstacles to change to more sustained land use.