



## In Council

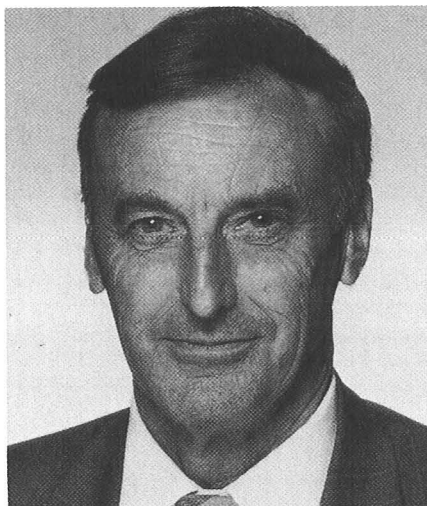
### Forest Policy Statement – RMA

The NZIF has a role in influencing the drafting of regional policy statements in forestry. To this end, the exotic forest policy, which has been the subject of consideration by your Council and local sections, is now at the point where we wish to ensure Regional Councils acting under the new Resource Management Act develop regional rules that are not hostile to forest investment. The format of the policy statement provides a relatively clear framework for consideration at the second round of submissions, which most Regional Councils are now dealing with, and will encourage exotic forest use for either protection or production to be an activity requiring only one initial non-notified consent to ensure forestry is a permitted use with no unnecessary burden of compliance or consent costs.

The aspect which we are asking Regional Councils to consider is that forestry has such a long time horizon it is fundamentally different from most other land-based activities. As such, forestry should not be exposed to a multiple consent regime that could erode confidence in people being able to log trees that they had planted for investment and production purposes.

### Forest Accord – NZIF Signatory?

This instrument of agreement between the NZFOA and the Environmental groups including Maruia Society, Forest & Bird Protection Society and Federated Mountain Clubs has been subject to consideration by Council for some two years. At the first anniversary of its signing by the various groups the opportunity was offered for the Institute to become a signatory. We had difficulties with the wording of the Accord and the implication for an indigenous forest policy which can be committed to sustainability but should not be committed to preservation. There are aspects that would make it very difficult for any landowner to manage a forest either by selection logging, group felling or larger scale clearfelling (where the species regeneration habits are optimum). In many cases owners may opt for enrichment of logged forest with exotic species and, where a woody species is considered by the Accord to require protection, any conversion is virtually ruled out.



Peter Olsen

Application of the Accord to the East Coast Initiative that the Minister of Forestry is presently encouraging appears difficult, due to emphasis on conservation of indigenous species, such as Kanuka on reverted farmland sites underlain by erosion-prone, crushed argillite mudstones. This is being considered by a reconvened group of the signatories and the Institute has been invited to participate in any rewording which would remove the defects identified above and enable us to be involved without a problem of ethical concern for the profession to identify management objectives and carry these out to the best advantage of the forest owner. Consultants are most particularly exposed in this way.

### Forests Amendment Bill

The indigenous forest policy is being considered by a working party to be chaired by John Holloway with representation from Universities, DOC and private forest owners. The forest policy to be derived, and the database which will identify the changes and environmental pressures being exerted on the remaining indigenous forests of the country, are to be considered in this context.

This would follow on from the Institute's submission to the Select Committee considering the Forest Amendment Bill.

I would request all members to contact the spokespeople who have responsibility for these topics, or any council member, to ensure a full consideration of members' views before we commit the Institute to published positions.

**P.F. Olsen**  
President

## Professional development

Inserted in this issue of NZ Forestry is a questionnaire concerning professional development training courses and seminars. The objective of this questionnaire is to survey the immediate needs and interests of NZIF members and others involved in forestry.

The NZIF Council sees the continuing professional development of its members as fundamental to the health and reputation of the profession. Continual change in legislation, varying individual job roles and technical advancement all mean that active members need ongoing opportunities to upgrade skills and knowledge.

Short courses on specific topics offered in regional centres will provide a convenient complement to the longer technical courses and seminars run from time to time by the School of Forestry, LIRO and FRI.

Council's role will be to stimulate the development and offering of courses to meet needs identified in the survey. Where appropriate, existing training organisations will be involved.

A pilot course in the series is an evening lecture on Introduction to Forestry Taxation which is being run on Tuesday, November 23 in Napier. Course presenter is Mark Blackburne, Accountant of Taupo, who has a large number of forest industry clients and lectures in the LIRO Business of Logging courses.

It is anticipated that this course will be offered in other North Island centres and then evaluated for wider presentation around the country. An advanced-level course in taxation issues is also planned.

Readers are invited to comment to Council on the initiatives, C/- The Secretary, P.O. Box 19840, Christchurch.

**John Galbraith**

### TASKFORCE ON PRIVATE PROVISION FOR RETIREMENT

**Spokesperson – Jolyon Manning,**  
P.O. Box 901, Dunedin

The Council decided against a direct submission to the Taskforce on Private Provision for Retirement. It chose instead to seek direct discussions with the officials involved to share our views on ways and means whereby the investment opportunities within the forestry sector might be examined in some detail, with a view to linking them with the personal retirement savings programme.