

very issue with which the Council is concerned and a forecast of the long-term harvest potential compared with estimates of actual realisations. The major problem in this is, as always, how accurate are the figures of actual harvests realised in each region. The Working Group felt that the estimates derived for the growing crops are of a superior accuracy to that achieved in deriving the actual realisations, so that if comparisons are to be improved, emphasis should be given to improving the latter procedures, as was explained in points (iii) and (iv) when discussing term of reference #2.

(3) to identify what further ongoing research on related forest sector studies needs to be undertaken, and by whom

There were major differences of viewpoint within the Working Group on what kind of ongoing research should be concerned with forest sector analyses. All were agreed, however, that improving the quality and timeliness of the basic data collected for and reported in the NEFD and Market Report publications of the Ministry of Forestry is of paramount importance. Given such information, potential woodflows, calibrations of forest estate supply capabilities and revisions of production forecasts can be independently evaluated.

There was also agreement that the particular kind of indicative planning done for the CNIPS exercise in 1985 was largely a waste of time and money. There was criticism too of the 1992 Forest Industry Study, which seemingly gave misleading impressions about the future potential for added value manufacturing. But, given the narrowing of the focus and the interpretation of the Council's terms of reference by the Working Group, it was decided that there was little point in pursuing this particular aspect further.

(4) To provide reports periodically to the Council on current utilisation patterns and their implications for the future based on data releases which comply with confidentiality provisions of the Statistics Department

The Working Group was wholly in favour of the Institute's playing a vital supportive role in analysing published reports on plantation resource statistics and on utilisation patterns. It also strongly believed that the Institute should take a lead in communicating its findings as a professional body to government agencies, the industry and the public. The Group recommends to the Council that it retain, therefore, a group (though not necessarily composed of the present individuals) to maintain a watching brief on

wood removal and forest maturity statistics and to provide a sound professional review of the methodologies used to prepare and report these statistics.

The Institute has not the financial resources to conduct detailed independent studies that need to be done regularly so that opinions that are based on sufficiently refined analyses could be reported on aspects such as regional overcutting. The group also dismissed the suggestion that a review based on hearsay and other such informal local knowledge could be mustered. There is paid work already being done on obtaining the requisite information with due sensitivity and the group considered, therefore, that increasing the publishing tempo and even releasing some more in-house information for professional and public scrutiny would be much preferred.

The Group recommends that the Council maintain a group which reviews available information and which reports annually to the Council, so that members of the Institute can receive as up-to-date information as possible on the state of the plantation resource wood supply capability.

ity. The group also recommends that the Council make a concerted effort to advise the Minister of Forestry, the Commissioner for the Environment and the public at large of its annual findings.

CONCLUSIONS

This Working Group supports the recommendations made in the Grayburn Report on making pronouncements on possible overcutting and supports the view that the Institute Council continue to play a supportive role in critically reviewing statistical information about the plantation forest resource, its rate of harvest, the pattern of utilising its produce in the market place and the analytical methodologies that are employed to derive relevant statistics. The Working Group further urges the Council to disseminate this information for the good of the country, while at the same time raising its own professional profile as an informed and independent body within the community.

A.G.D. Whyte
(Chairman of Working Group)

NZIF membership increase

In the year ending March 31, 1993, 52 new or returning members joined the Institute. There were 17 resignations. The names are listed below for the interest of members.

New membership

M. Alexander, B. Armour, M. Blackburne, W. Blackmore, J. Boland, N. Burn-Murdoch, A. Caddie, M. Candish, N. Chandler, H. Corbett, S. Croskery, M. Dean, A. Dick, R. Dickie, M. Dodd, S. Downs, W. Dyck, P. Dyer, B. Elliott, J. Fa'alava'au, J. Galbraith, J. Gaskin, C. Graham, A. Groome, M. Hennessy, G. Herrington, P. Hodgkinson, D. Johnson, R. Kimpton, K. Kuggeleijn, C. La Grouw, B. Lancaster, J. Maud, S. McIntosh, L. McNicholas, D. Morrison, A. Newman, J. Powrie, A. Riddle, S. Rustin, J. Schnell, D. Seymour, K. Shaw, R. Sheppard, P. Tempest, P. Thomson, A. Tinnelly, B. Readwell, M. Turbitt, A. Watt, G. West, F. Wood.

Resignations

D. Barwick, M. Bloomberg, R. Croft, A.

Fifield, R. Green, R. Guthrie, P. Houston, B. Jarrett, A. Jewell, R. Kean, J. Marryatt, L. McDougall, P. Mead, E. Nicholson, M. Pannell, B. Sewell, A. Wright.

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