

NPV approach is used to estimate forest value.

Another area of debate is how prescriptive the guidelines should be. Generally the approach taken has been to require disclosure of key valuation assumptions rather than prescribing what assumptions should be made. However, one option is

to require as a sensitivity (NOT as an estimate of market value) the calculation of a "standard" forest value using standard price and discount rate assumptions. This has been suggested to provide a basis for comparison analogous to the calculation of Government Valuations on property.

Members were invited to provide their

views to the Working Party on these issues and so far about 50 have done so. The views expressed cover the full spectrum and represent a very high standard of technical debate. They are now being considered by the Working Party.

**Bruce Manley**

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## Environmental Working Group update

- Tim Thorpe represented NZIF at the Seventh International Meeting of the Montreal Process Group on the conservation and management of temperate and boreal forests in Auckland on October 30 and 31.
- ECO (Environmental and Conservation Organisations of NZ) Conference and AGM. The NZIF is a member of ECO and Tim Thorpe attended the ECO conference and AGM in Auckland in August. A full report is included in this issue of NZ Forestry.
- NZIF position with respect to the *Forest Accord* and *Principles for the Sustainable Management of New Zealand's Commercial Plantation Forest*. NZIF was represented at a meeting of the *Principles* partners in September. The final "sign-off" was on October 27 in Wellington. NZIF members were surveyed in September on whether the NZIF should be a signa-

tory to the *Principles*. Some 50 members responded with opinions relatively evenly divided on the issue. NZIF Council has decided to postpone a decision on the NZIF's position until the AGM in Invercargill in April/May 1996. Members are urged to continue sending in their responses to the survey. A full report on the survey, and the final text of the *Principles* will be in the next issue of NZ Forestry.

- NZIF position statement on biodiversity. Dougal Morrison is preparing a draft statement which will be published in the next issue of NZ Forestry.
- Proposed 'Greening the New Zealand Forest Industry' seminar. The Commonwealth Forestry Association (CFA) and NZIF are considering organising a one-day seminar 'Greening the NZ Forest Industry'. Initial feedback from forest industry groups indicates a high level of interest, and the seminar is

likely to take place early in 1996.

- The EWG and Wood Processing. John Gifford (NZFRI) was asked to initiate discussion with his colleagues on the role that the Environmental Working Group might take working in the area of wood processing. Possibilities include information dissemination, educational activities and initiating discussion on the setting up of a *Processing Accord* similar to the *Forest Accord*.
- The International Union of Societies of Forestry (IUSF) and the Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC). The NZIF indicated to the IUSF that it did not think the IUSF should join the FSC at this stage until the FSC's principles and mandate are clarified.

**Tim Thorpe**  
Convenor

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## ECO Conference and AGM – 'Greenwash be damned' Piha, Auckland, August 25-27, 1995

The NZIF has been a member of ECO for a number of years, albeit a sleeping partner rather than an active participant. According to Peter Berg, former Vice-President of NZIF, the move to join was part of a deliberate strategy at a time of some discontent between the conservation movement and the forest industry to indicate that the NZIF was a neutral player in the forestry sector independent of the industry.

The Institute's membership of ECO has risen to prominence recently for three reasons:

1. The Institute has now established an Environmental Working Group which is in the process of determining its role in the forestry and environment arena.

2. ECO is a signatory to the NZ Forest Accord and on the working group

preparing the *Principles for the Sustainable Management of New Zealand's Commercial Plantation Forest Management*. The Institute was able to provide comment on the *Principles* initially through ECO and latterly by direct input.

3. Comment from Institute members asking why the NZIF is a member of ECO.

My attendance at the ECO Conference and AGM was to represent the Institute's view on the *Principles* and to learn a little more about ECO.

ECO currently has 78 members, including most notable environmental groups with the exceptions of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society (RF&B) and the Maruia Society. It would appear, from the strong attendance of RF&B members, that they will be seeking to reconsider their membership status. The

Mariua Society seems to be a spent force amongst environmental NGOs, more active in the political arena. ECO is a fully-constituted society with some 15 councillors elected at the AGM who meet monthly. Because of its diverse membership, ECO is active in a number of environmental areas.

The theme of the conference was 'Greenwash Be Damned – the Corporates Fight Back'. The only speaker on this issue was Bob Burton from the Tasmanian Wilderness Society, and while his speech was fairly pointed, it did not appear to raise the level of interest that the theme might suggest. (I have copies of his speech, if members are interested.)

A workshop on the *Principles* was attended by about 20 people, including Wink Sutton from Fletcher Challenge

who had come solely for this purpose, and representatives of a number of ECO member organisations who have been involved in developing the *Principles* to date.

Discussion centred on both the *Principles* themselves and the process through which they had been developed. Both Wink and I were able to freely put our perspectives on the *Principles* to the workshop. I believe that our presence assisted the debate and we were afterwards thanked for our contribution.

There were a number of other issues that were discussed during the conference and AGM which I was able to comment on both formally and informally. These included discussions with a group oppos-

ing the proposed Wenita MDF plant in Otago, discussions on the MRGC land clearance issue in Marlborough, and various comments about the activities of the Ministry of Forestry.

ECO and other environmental NGOs are preparing a Vote for the Environment Document 1996 which they will be sending to all major political parties, along with a questionnaire to gauge their responses. I was able to provide input to relevant sections of this document, often a lone voice, and have been invited to provide further input in direct association with other groups writing the document.

In summary, I feel that the Institute was able to make a useful contribution to

the ECO Conference and AGM at a number of levels. It was also particularly useful to have an industry representative (Wink) at the workshop meeting on the *Principles*. I believe that the Institute should ensure that when it is aware that forestry issues of some substance will be discussed, it should have a representative at ECO conferences. It may in fact be useful to have the Institute represented at all meetings regardless of the topics on the agenda, because of the informal discussions that take place and the contacts that can be made.

**Tim Thorpe**  
**Convenor, Environmental**  
**Working Group**



## NEW INFORMATION



### High-profile conference to be part of NZ timber trade fair

A high-profile conference with speakers a virtual "who's who" of the New Zealand timber industry is the latest addition to the timber trade fair to be held at Trentham Racecourse, Upper Hutt, next March.

Entitled "Forest growth - from ground to future", the conference is aimed at delegates from a wide range of interests, including investors, forest growers, logging contractors, processors and marketers of the timber industry.

It will be opened by the Minister of Forestry, the Hon. John Falloon, and addressed by such noted experts as Dr Wink Sutton from Fletcher Challenge, John Dey from Forme Consulting, Ken Shirley of the Forest Owners' Association and Mike Roche from UDC Finance.

The conference will be held at Trentham Racecourse on March 7 and 8.

Meanwhile, space is filling fast at the timber trade fair itself with already more

than 65 firms from the north of the North Island to the bottom of the South Island on board.

The expansive layout of the venue, one of New Zealand's most prestigious racecourses, allows it to cater for everything from the smallest local woodworker to working portable mills and aerial fire-fighting displays.

Everything from forest planning, investment, land purchase, establishment management, log harvesting (including a full range of harvesting and related equipment) to sawmilling wood, processing, turning and furniture making will be covered.

One of the most spectacular demonstrations planned during the three-day

(Continued on page 48)

### Upper Hutt Festival of the Pines TIMBER TRADE FAIR and CONFERENCE 7 - 10 March 1996 Trentham Race Course, Upper Hutt

#### Conference 7-8 March Theme - FOREST GROWTH - FROM GROUND TO FUTURE

The two day conference will be of interest to the forest grower, investor, and contractor interested in the tree in the ground, and to the contractor, processor, investor and marketer of the timber products after the tree is harvested. Plenary addresses from internationally known speakers.

**Send now for a registration brochure and further conference information.**

#### Timber Trade Fair 8 - 10 March

More than 60 exhibitors have been confirmed with exhibits including working milling equipment, saws, heavy engineering, cranes, paints, major forestry companies, government departments, consultants, remanufacturing industries, financiers and other timber interested groups.

More spaces available from the organisers - Upper Hutt Festival of the Pines Inc.

For conference registration or information contact  
**Neil Maitland**  
Conference Brokers Limited  
PO Box 13 510 Johnsonville, Wellington  
Phone / Fax 04 4780622

For information about the Timber Trade Fair contact  
**Warren Smallbone**  
Festival of the Pines Inc, PO Box 47024  
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