



RECENT EVENTS



Political parties' forestry policies

ACT

1. Department of Conservation Funding
ACT NZ believes that conservation in New Zealand requires improved resource allocation.

2. The protection of the planted and indigenous estate from forest pests and diseases

ACT NZ believes there should be:

- continued vigilance in surveillance of existing threats and assessment of potential threats;
- improved forest pest eradication programmes, e.g., possums, wasps, muselids, deer, noxious plants, etc.;
- improved border control with increased surveillance of all products, equipment and personal effects.

3. Indigenous timber production on private and public lands

ACT NZ does not oppose the production of timber, whether from exotic or indigenous species, but does support appropriate controls to protect and enhance areas of remaining indigenous forest.

4. Log exports versus processed timber exports

ACT NZ believes that forest growers and wood processors have a basic commercial right to market their products to achieve the best return for their efforts.

5. Foreign investment/Overseas Investment Commission

Foreign investment is necessary for New Zealand's continued economic and social progress, but ACT NZ believes that improved domestic savings will lead to greater New Zealand-owned investments, both domestically and offshore.

6. Privatisation of State forests

State-owned commercial enterprises should be privatised.

7. Investment and infrastructure (e.g. roading)

The infrastructural investment climate should encourage modal neutrality and be free of distorting subsidies.

8. Forestry taxation

ACT believes in a simpler, fairer and



Anne Dill

lower taxation regime. A 12.5% flat personal tax rate is advocated (with additional 7% compulsory private superannuation savings). Company taxation rates would be a flat 19.5% and GST would not be increased.

A change to the deductibility regime is not advocated.

9. Community impact of forestry (especially large-scale afforestation)

ACT believes that afforestation should continue to be market-driven, recognising that economic, environmental and social benefits accrue from afforestation.

Anne Dill
Arrowtown

Alliance

Forest conservation

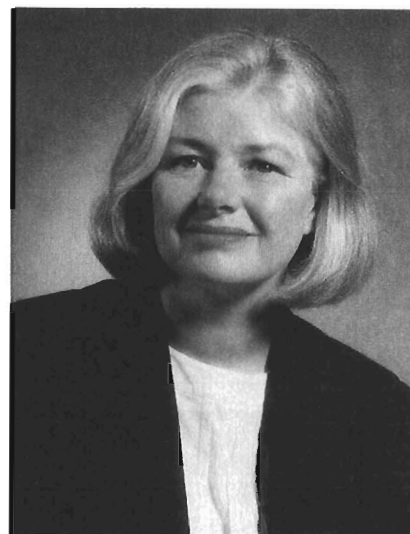
Our remaining native forests are seriously threatened by possums, goats and in some places deer, and by the continuing underfunding of the Department of Conservation which is charged with caring for them. The Alliance has budgeted an additional \$50 million a year for DOC's basic scientific work, its work on endangered species, and for improved visitor services. This will enable it to take on additional responsibilities, such as for those parts of the High Country which should be under

its management. We have also budgeted an increase for the Forest Heritage Fund, to \$10 million.

Pest control

Funding for pest and weed control will be increased by \$50 million a year, available to DOC and regional Councils. Priority will be given to ground control, rather than aerial poisoning, and to the thorough training and permanent employment of teams of unemployed young people in rural areas. We see these teams becoming very familiar with their local forests, and eventually able to broaden their field of work, such as into ecological survey work for DOC, or eco-tourism ventures.

As international traffic of goods and people increases, and secondary airports are involved, border control must be improved to guard against introduced pests and diseases. The Alliance supports the programme of increased controls proposed by the Fruitgrowers Federation, with additions specifically targeted to forestry pests.



Jeanette Fitzsimons

Indigenous timber production

We wish to see greater diversity of species in plantation forestry, including more woodlots planted of indigenous species, which provide a product unique to NZ. We also strongly support work to diversify into species which do not need expensive and toxic treatment for most purposes. Cypressines are promising in this respect.

While our policy supports limited areas of sustainable management of existing indigenous forests where this can be shown to be ecologically viable, we have seen no evidence that this is possible for podocarp forests and would expect it would be limited to some areas of beech. We define sustainable management in this context as:

maintaining and enhancing the ecological processes and genetic diversity for the benefit of future generations, while continuing to provide products and amenities in perpetuity.

Privatisation of State forests

The Alliance is totally opposed to the sale of the Forestry Corporation and is promoting a nationwide petition for a referendum to prevent the sale. The Corporation is returning enough profit now to invest in further processing, which would allow New Zealand to retain control over the type of processing and its associated jobs and environmental impacts. The returns from the industry would then remain in NZ. There are opportunities for NZ to process far more of its logs here, including into furniture, house kit sets and mouldings. We should not think of bulk commodities as the only option. There is also an opportunity to develop the market for certified sustainably grown wood products.

Further processing and foreign investment

Capital would be available from the Alliance Economic Development Fund for NZ investment in timber processing, subject to the conditions of the Fund which include ecological sustainability. Foreign investment in New Zealand will be subject to approval from the Overseas Investment Commission and will have to show direct benefit to New Zealand in terms of, for example, employment, technology, marketing; and will have to not cause environmental harm or create a monopoly. There will be no sales of land to persons not citizens or resident in NZ, or to companies with more than 49% overseas shareholding.

Infrastructure

Our policies will favour the use of rail over road wherever feasible and we will be seeking commitments from Tranz Rail to extend their network where there are substantial log volumes.

Social effects

Socially, we see the potential for forestry to enhance communities if it is planned on a local scale, with nursery work, planting, environmental assessment, training, silvi-

culture, processing and marketing carried out locally.

Jeanette Fitzsimons Deputy Leader, Forestry spokesperson

Jeanette Fitzsimons is also a farm forester, growing macrocarpa, lusitanica and blackwoods on a small farm in the Coromandel.

Christian Coalition

The Christian Coalition believes the environment is a divine gift which we have a responsibility to nurture. Any development, therefore, must be balanced with proper care for the environment.

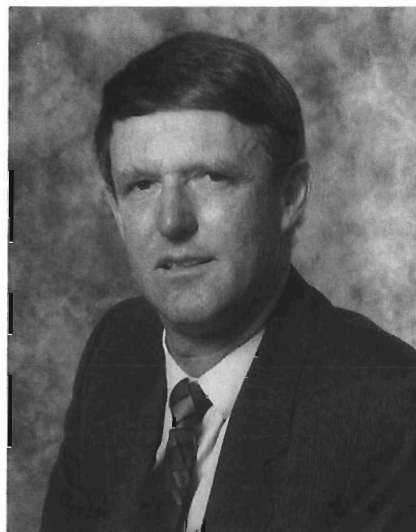
The Christian Coalition would:

- support the objectives of the Resource Management Act 1991 to ensure that the nation's resources are responsibly managed;
- provide adequate funds to government agencies (e.g. the Department of Conservation) to ensure that resources are protected and used responsibly;
- support adequate protection of the environment and the welfare of animals;
- support economic policies that promote sound, profitable, primary industries;
- support the right of primary producers to organise their industries, with due regard to the requirements of justice and individual freedoms and responsibilities.
- insist that polluters pay for the damage they cause, with a view to restoration.

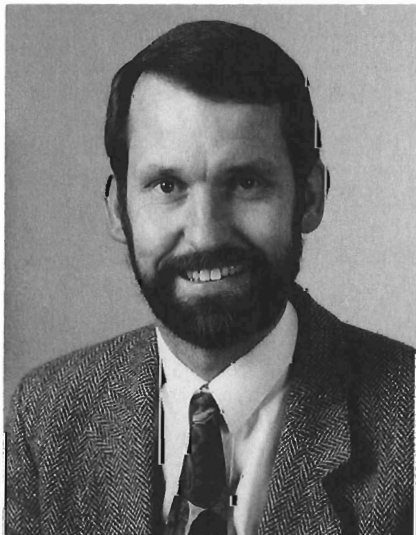
John Stringer Campaign Director

Labour

- Labour will substantially increase government funding of conservation in a phased programme over five years. This will include an additional \$68 million over its first three Budgets and culminate at a level double that of 1994-95. Unlike National, Labour will fund the Department of Conservation to succeed as an effective advocate for conservation, not fail.
- There is no higher responsibility of Government than the protection of New Zealand's biological security. Recent events – such as the establishment of the Asian White Spotted Tussock Moth – demonstrate our vul-



Hon Jim Sutton



John Blincoe

nerability. Labour will ensure adequate resources are devoted to our defences against exotic pests and diseases.

- New Zealand's natural forests must be protected for future generations. The very limited production from them which can still be contemplated must be on a sustainable basis. At the same time, Labour will encourage, and where necessary assist, the establishment of pilot plantation forests, using New Zealand's unique indigenous species.
- The objective is to add the maximum value to New Zealand's plantation forest production, onshore. This will be on the basis that New Zealand is an internationally competitive processor, not by intervening to restrict the marketing opportunities open to growers. There will probably always be some log exports, to cope with regional supply imbalances and to take advantage of profitable market opportunities.

- Overseas investment can help the ongoing development of our forest industries. Labour will support it where it can be shown to benefit New Zealand. We will rigorously enforce the Overseas Investment Commission rules and strengthen them in respect of land, if necessary. We will not sell the land underlying State forests, but will sell cutting rights on terms which best encourage processing investment and job opportunities for New Zealanders.
- Labour will facilitate world-class infrastructural investment, including training, education, research and development.
- Labour will retain the existing basis of taxation for forestry, which allows the immediate deductibility of planting and tending expenses. We believe this is equitable with the treatment accorded alternative crops.
- Forestry must be socially and environmentally as well as financially sustainable. Resource management procedures and rules will be fine-tuned to ensure this. Labour will involve all interested groups in the development of an agreed and visionary forestry policy statement under the Resource Management Act. The policy will be designed to crystallise common values and objectives, and provide for conservation, cultural and recreational use, production, employment and profit.

Hon Jim Sutton
Labour Spokesperson on Forestry
John Blincoe
Labour Spokesperson on
Conservation

National

Vision

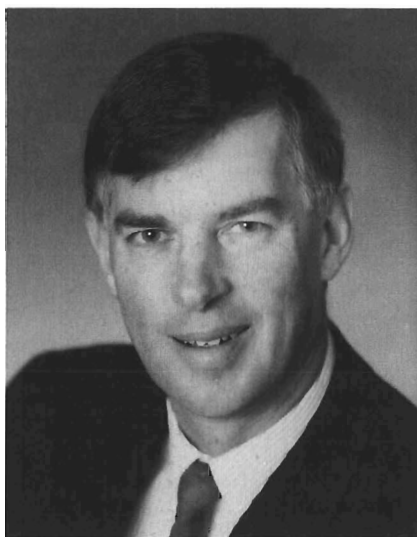
The National Government's vision for forestry is an industry contributing strongly to land, forest and economic sustainably, growing rapidly, producing high-quality, value-added products to a wide diversity of markets.

A Sound and Stable Economy

Since taking office in 1990 many cornerstone policies have been put in place to create an environment where National's vision of the forestry industry can be achieved.

Economic policies of low inflation, fiscal surpluses and stable monetary policy now provide a climate in which investment in forestry and processing our increasing wood volumes is efficient and internationally competitive.

The removal of tax disincentives to



Minister of Forestry, Hon John Falloon

forest planting, the introduction of the Employment Contracts Act, the development of a competitive energy market, the encouragement of foreign investment and recent budget increases in infrastructural spending have all contributed strong economic growth and investor confidence.

Integrated Land Management

The National Government enacted the indigenous provisions of the Forests Act to protect in perpetuity New Zealand's remaining indigenous forest, halting the clearfelling of indigenous forest for production purposes from July of this year and commencing an era of sustainable management for the country's indigenous forest.

The National Government is also committed to enhancing New Zealand's precious conservation estate. The Department of Conservation will receive an increase in funding of \$NZ68.4 million over the next three years, which will take DOC's total funding to \$NZ181 million in 1998-99. Other Environmental initiatives outlined in the recently-released Green Package include a national network to improve sustainable land management, research to find new possum-control methods, public input into biodiversity strategy, more protection for threatened species and more funds for the war on pests and weeds.

The National Government will:

- continue to pursue low inflation, fiscally responsible policies aimed at enhancing the competitiveness of the New Zealand economy;
- encourage investment in further processing and added-value products;
- continue to push for better trade access through the WTO and APEC and country-to-country negotiations;
- further target research efforts to the

higher end of the value chain;

- encourage the forestry and agricultural sectors to work closely together to achieve integrated sustainable land use and healthy rural communities;
- continue to assist indigenous forest owners to adjust to the sustainable management requirements of the indigenous provisions of the Forests Act;
- negotiate with South Island Landless Maori Act owners to ensure the long-term sustainability of their forests and the preservation of their forests with high conservation values;
- use the Forest Industry Education and Training Council and seamless education to help directly or indirectly to improve skills in all fields of forestry;
- maintain the Northland facilitation scheme to assist joint ventures between Maori landowners and those prepared to invest in long-term partnerships;
- continue the East Coast Project to improve the sustainability of the land communities in the region;
- continue the ongoing improvement process to ensure border control is efficient and effective;
- work with organisations like the Forest Industry Council to achieve better training, export penetration, higher added value and branded products from forests.

New Zealand First

New Zealand has a huge asset in its plantation softwoods which can provide employment for generations of New Zealanders.

We need to plan to ensure that New Zealand gets the best maximum advantage from the far-sighted planting policies of past Governments.

Potential markets, industry training, research priorities, employment opportunities through further processing and removing infrastructural barriers must all be planned.

New Zealand First will work with the forestry industry to ensure that these priorities are given effect to. We will assess the need for and the impact of overseas investment in the industry. In particular, we will want to know the impact of foreign investment in developing overseas markets and the generation of employment through further processing of our timber resources in New Zealand.

A NZ First Government will:

- maintain the taxation regime for forestry establishment, which means that planting, pruning and thinning costs will be fully tax deductible in the year of expenditure;
- establish a venture capital fund, funded

jointly by government and financial institutions, to provide short-term equity funding to approved forestry business ventures;

- review the definition which, for tax purposes, applies to expenditure on research and development;
- ensure that forestry gets sufficient research and development investment;
- apply more constructive uses of unemployment benefit if permanent jobs will follow and the environment is protected or enhanced. This could include combining the land resources of iwi and other groups with the funding of programmes of Government to develop resources that will lead toward self-reliance and reduced unemployment.

Plantation Indigenous Species

The best way to protect the remaining New Zealand indigenous forests is to encourage the planting of native trees on a commercial basis to satisfy the demand for such timber.

If potential investors do not have a guarantee that their property rights will not be arbitrarily taken off them, the amount of planting will not grow as it should.

For that reason, NZ First is committed to protecting the right to commercially harvest native trees specifically planted for that purpose.

The nature of the harvesting should be decided by initial agreement or contract.

For instance, if the planting is intended as integrated, multi-return forestry, a sustainable harvest agreement should contractually bind the planter and the responsible authority.

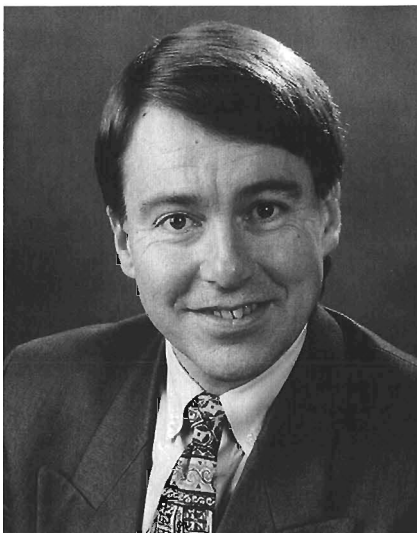
Native Forests

New Zealand First supports the protection of remaining non-plantation native forests from clearfelling.

Progressive Green

The Progressive Green Party was formed to spearhead a renewed commitment to sustainable management of the nation's resources, coupled with responsible economic management. We believe millions of hectares of New Zealand would be better off in forests, both native and exotic, including forests on farms. Our policies are designed to stimulate both forest expansion, and excellence in forest management.

Enhancing forestry investment depends firstly on sound policies on the key issues facing commercial forestry. We favour continued privatisation of State exotic production forests, no new restric-



Guy Salmon

tions on log exports, no new restrictions on foreign investment in forestry, and no changes in the current taxation of forestry, other than a review of the taxation of immature forests to see whether trade in such forests can reasonably be facilitated. These policies are consistent with our economic policies, which favour growth in an open, low inflation economy with flexible labour markets and fiscally responsible government.

On roading issues we favour moving to a 100% user-pays regime with a corresponding customer focus in the provision of roading investment. On the community impacts of forestry we favour a consultative approach to facilitate orderly change, but we do not believe the Resource Management Act can or should be used to block afforestation for social reasons.

We favour greatly increasing the Crown's funding of the Department of Conservation. At the same time we must improve the effectiveness of conservation management in New Zealand. To achieve this we wish to replace the present over-politicised, multiple-objective departmental structure with an independent conservation agency or agencies having a clear conservation purpose and operated at arm's length from politics.

We favour an enhanced commitment to biosecurity at New Zealand's frontiers, and to the control of weeds and pests in both native and exotic forests. While the overall science budget has increased, there remains a need for enhanced operational research funding for the Ministry of Forestry and the Department of Conservation. We favour the development of tradable certificates for greenhouse gas emissions, incorporating an ability for land users to earn saleable certificates for forest planting and reversion to forest.

Finally we wish to see a complete review of policies for indigenous produc-

tion forestry. We must ensure that the policy environment is right to foster sustainable management of private and State production forests, so that we can secure a small continuing supply of native timbers for future generations.

Guy Salmon

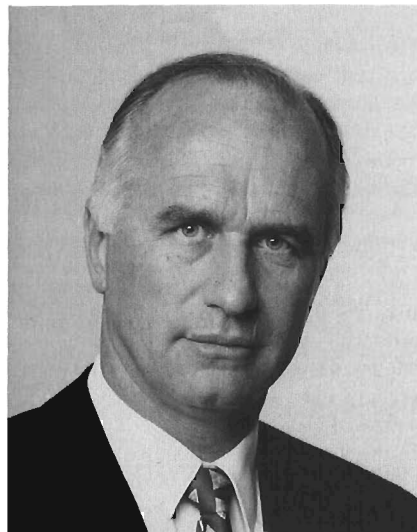
United New Zealand

United New Zealand is a centre party. We support an open market economy with sound fiscal and monetary policy and management. But we also have a social conscience. We want to see more progress made on New Zealand's pressing social problems. We are also committed to playing a constructive role in Parliament: cooperating with others to produce sensible policy and political stability.

Our economic philosophy is based on the importance to New Zealand of **enterprise**. It is the New Zealand business community that drives economic growth. The proper role of Government is to provide the right environment for that to happen.

That environment means:

- free and open markets
- a commitment to low inflation
- keeping the Government's accounts in good order
- infrastructure to enable the best use of physical and human resources
- a fair and simple tax system
- minimum of red tape
- political stability.



Hon Bruce Cliffe

United has worked to maintain and improve that environment. We will continue to do so.

We believe that Government generally should not be a player in industry. United

has therefore supported the sale of cutting rights to State forests. We support foreign investment in forestry and other industries because that investment is crucial to developing the downstream processing industries that add value to our exports.

While forestry has been a big success story in recent years, with new planting of around 100,000 hectares in 1995, there is still work to be done. United supports:

- amending the Holidays Act to allow both fairness and flexibility;
- improving the administration of the ACC;
- focusing on trade development and New Zealand's international marketing systems;
- promoting greater investment in further processing by eliminating bureaucratic obstacles;
- reforming parts of the Resource Management Act to prevent time-wasting and vexatious objections, and appeals made purely to frustrate competition.

However, United also places a high value on conservation of New Zealand's precious natural environment.

We support the introduction of a system of natural resource accounting to better match environmental and economic decision-making. We are opposed to any reversal of present laws which protect native forests.

We also support increases in funding for the Department of Conservation but we want to see better management of the funding already provided.

United is determined to build a country where economic progress and social responsibility go hand in hand.

Hon Bruce Cliffe
United New Zealand
Spokesperson for Forestry

Closure of Rangiora nursery

FRI has decided to close down the FRI nursery operation at Rangiora. Ray Meyer, Chairman of FRI, observed that in spite of everyone's best endeavours, the financial viability of the operation has not been secured, and it was thought that this was unlikely to change in the immediate future. The nursery has faced difficulties, including a lack of PGSF support for South Island nursery research, declining demand for research trial stock, and a very competitive commercial nursery market. Despite the closure, FRI remains committed to the development of a stronger and more focused South Island presence on the University of Canterbury campus.

Government decides on moth eradication programme

The Minister of Forestry, Hon John Falloon, has announced a programme which will include ground and aerial spraying parts of Auckland eastern suburbs.

"Trials on the feeding habits of the tussock moth have been under way for the last three months and have shown that the moth is a definite danger to New Zealand orchards, city and garden trees. Just as worrying is the probable danger to our native and commercial forests," Mr Falloon said.

"The tussock moth is not a significant problem in its native Northern Asia. However, there are numerous examples, such as possums, which have taught us the hard way the devastation that introduced species can have on our environment."

The spraying programme, Operation Ever Green, cannot start until the caterpillars hatch from their eggs, probably in September or October.

One-off Opportunity

"This is a one-off opportunity to strike while the moth is restricted to a relatively small area. We have the option of spraying one area of Auckland now, or large areas of the whole country every year," said Mr Falloon.

"We could not realistically spray our native forests to protect them against the threat of the moth. While we can spray our horticultural crops and plantation forests, it must be avoided if possible.

"The spray that will be used is a bio-control agent called BTK. BTK occurs naturally and is used widely by organic growers, who have extremely strict controls over the chemicals used on their crops.

"BTK has been used extensively in aerial spraying programmes in the cities of Vancouver, Portland and Seattle. The spray has no effect on people, animals, plants or any insects other than the caterpillars of moths and butterflies. A public health study done in Vancouver during the city's 1992 spraying confirmed that there were no public health concerns.

"It is very important that the public have confidence in the decision to spray. Since the moth was first found in Auckland every effort has been made to keep the public fully informed.

"An environmental impact study on the aerial spraying on BTK has been widely circulated and is available from the Ministry of Forestry or on the internet (<http://www.gwr.govt.nz/forestry/evergreen>). The Ministry of Health has also reviewed the formulation of BTK that will be used and found that there is no need for the public to take any special precautions."

Science Panel

A special Science Panel has been established to advise the Ministers of Science and Forestry on the eradication programme. The Committee will monitor a number of factors regarding the eradication programme, including public health, environmental and conservation issues.

An independent advisory group representing community interests is also being formed, headed by Philip Sherry the Auckland Regional Council Deputy Chairman. The group will convey any public concerns, issues and suggestions directly to the Minister of Forestry.

Representatives from a wide range of interests including environmental groups, local schools, Maori, the elderly and community organisations have been invited to join the group which meets in early August.

Cooperation the Key

"From the beginning of the outbreak, the key to dealing with the moth has been cooperation from the local community and I appreciate the support we have received. We have been open and upfront and we will continue to do so throughout Operation Ever Green," Mr Falloon concluded.

Tussock Moth Science Advisory Committee

Dr Gordon Hosking	NZ Forest Research
Dr David Bremner	University of Auckland
Dr David Baird	AgResearch
Mr John Mebor	Lincoln Ventures
Dr Richard Hill	Landcare Research
Dr Ruth Frampton	Ministry of Agriculture
Mr Henry Dowler	Ministry of Health
Ms Jane Sheldon	Department of Conservation
Professor Don McGregor	Ministry of Research, Science and Technology