

There would be major legal issues, as well as national credibility problems. The fact that a large majority of the politicians now support the sale should ensure that there will be no reversal of the sale decision.

The purchase of the plantations and wood-processing assets of the Forestry Corporation increases the size of Fletcher Challenge Forests. The company now manages approximately 380,000 hectares, or

25% of New Zealand's plantation resource. Fletcher Challenge Forests is now the largest plantation manager in the country.

Wink Sutton

Environmental Risk Management Authority appointed

Membership of the new Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA) was announced recently by the Minister for the Environment, Hon Simon Upton. ERMA is the independent regulatory body set up to assess and set controls for the management of hazardous substances and the introduction of new organisms under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act.

The Authority chair will be Mr Bill Falconer, an Auckland company director and commercial barrister. He is currently chair of the ACC Board and recently chaired the Carbon Dioxide Working Group.

The deputy chair is Dr Oliver Sutherland of Christchurch, General Manager, Weeds and Pests, Landcare Research,

Lincoln. Other members are Professor Alastair Scott, head of the Auckland University Statistics Department; Professor Barry Scott, Director of the Massey University Molecular Genetics Unit; Dr Lindie Nelson, Ministry of Fisheries Senior Policy Analyst, Wellington; Mr John Maasland, Executive Director of Wilson and Horton Ltd, Auckland; Mrs Helen Hughes, the retiring Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, Wellington; and Dr Terence Lomax, NZ Forest Research Institute senior scientist, Rotorua.

Mr Upton said that while the HSNO Act became law on June 10, 1996, most of it was not expected to come into force until early 1998. Until then existing laws and regulations will continue in force.

Developing a methodology for assessing hazardous substances and new organisms will be the priority task of the new Authority, and ERMA is expected to report to the Government on this aspect by December 1, 1997. Regulations will have to be developed and ERMA members will also be involved in the practical details of establishing the new organisation.

Under the HSNO Act, ERMA will be responsible for:

- assessing and setting standards for the control of hazardous substances and new organisms;
- advising the Minister on, and promoting awareness of, the control and effects of hazardous substances and new organisms;

THE FOREST RENEWAL B.C. CHAIR IN SILVICULTURE

Department of Forest Sciences University of British Columbia

The University has recently established an endowed chair in silviculture in the Department of Forest Sciences supported by Forest Renewal B.C., and we invite applications for the position, which is expected to be filled at the full professor level. The main task of the successful candidate will be to bring the relevant scientific knowledge and understanding to the public debates concerning silvicultural strategy and practice. The position will require research leadership, supervision of graduate students, and some teaching at both the undergraduate and graduate level.

Applicants should have a Ph.D., extensive experience in silviculture, a broad understanding of forest management issues, a well established research program, and a record of successful involvement in public debate concerning policy formulation in Forestry. Teaching experience is desirable.

The University of British Columbia has established programs in several areas of biology and management. The Centre for Applied Conservation Biology, the Centre for Biodiversity Research, the Sustainable Development Research Institute and the academic departments in the Faculties of Forestry, Science and Agricultural Sciences form a strong supporting community of scholars. The University manages two Research Forests, one near Vancouver and one in the central Interior of the province.

The forests of British Columbia are rich and varied, and the management of these forests is at a critical juncture where new demands for their use and conservation include a wide range of products and processes. Forests in near natural states as well as second growth forests will require many new silvicultural approaches to satisfy diverse demands.

The University of British Columbia welcomes all qualified applicants, especially women, aboriginal people, visible minorities and persons with disabilities. In accordance with Canadian immigration requirements, priority will be given to Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada.

Please direct enquiries and applications consisting of a Curriculum Vitae, the names of 3 referees, and a brief outline of expertise and research interests by **January 15, 1997** to:



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- ensuring that compliance procedures, such as inspections, audits and prosecutions, are working properly;
- transferring existing hazardous substances and new organisms to the new controls;
- monitoring and reviewing the extent to which the Act is contributing to the health and safety of people and the environment.

NZ Forest Owners' AGM

New Zealand's forest industry needs to be more sophisticated in its products and marketing relationships to survive in the global marketplace.

That's the view of NZ Forest Owners' Association President Erle Robinson.

In a speech to the Association's annual general meeting and conference in Grey-mouth on October 31, Mr Robinson said the sale of Forestry Corporation and its central North Island assets, to a consortium including Fletcher Challenge, was a major plus for the industry.

"It has elevated one of our forest companies to a higher level internationally because of its size, which must give us more clout in the international forestry environment."

Mr Robinson said the industry was heading into a period of consolidation. "It is an opportunity to re-examine the intensity and direction of our management within the forests.

"The challenge to our industry is to become more sophisticated about our forest products and our marketing relationships. Forest owners and those marketing our products need to be talking much earlier in the piece. As forest growers, we need to lift our sights beyond the forest gate.

"We're facing a period of intense international market competition where we have so much to learn about so many aspects from consumer preferences, logistics, product promotion and differentiation to eco-labelling.

"We haven't got anything to sell unless we have someone who is willing – and eager – to buy it."

Elected President at last year's conference, Mr Robinson was re-elected to the post. He is senior forestry manager for Fletcher Challenge Forests.

Activities at this year's NZFOA conference, which was hosted by Timberlands West Coast, included a seminar on sustainable forestry management and a field trip to view Timberlands' beech forest management programmes.

Ridding East Aucklanders of their hairy caterpillars

Low-flying aerial spraying of forests to release seedlings from weed growth or control *Dothistroma* pine needle blight are long-established, relatively straightforward forestry practices. But trying to low-fly aerial spray 30,000 homes in 4000 hectares of East Auckland to rid the area of the hairy caterpillars of the white-spotted tussock moth (*Orgyia thyellina*) has been an entirely different challenge.

A 30 mm fully-grown tussock moth caterpillar was first reported by a resident in Kohimarama in Auckland on April 17, 1996. Immediate survey of the area by Ministry of Forestry indicated its presence in an area of 700 hectares. Being in the same family as gypsy moth, a serious forest pest overseas, caused fear of potential

established to advise the Minister of Forestry. (The Minister's official announcement in the August issue of NZ Forestry explained these two committees.) Then the 1967 Forest Disease Control Regulations, which were originally enacted for the control of *Dothistroma*, were invoked to set up the Forest Disease Control Advisory Control Committee (White-Spotted Tussock Moth), on which the Institute has representation, as the main committee to advise the Ministry of Forestry on the eradication and monitoring programme.

Based on overseas experience, Btk (*Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki*) appeared to be the optimum insecticide to use in the eradication programme. A 68



The hairy caterpillar.

consequences of the tussock moth becoming established in Aotearoa New Zealand. Early evidence showed that the caterpillars had a voracity for leaves from roses, many fruit trees, maple, willow, birch, oak, kakabeak, silver beech, red beech, radiata pine, Douglas-fir and some eucalypts. Without natural predators, such as those in its home countries of Japan, Korea, Taiwan, China and the Russian Far East, the tussock moth posed a serious conservation and economic threat to New Zealand. On the basis of this threat the Government voted \$7.5 million to its eradication.

Having established the threat of this invader, Operation Ever Green, under the direction of Ministry of Forestry General Manager Operations John Handiside, was set in motion to carry out the eradication programme. A Tussock Moth Science Advisory Committee was set up to advise the Ministers of Forestry and Science. A Community Advisory Committee was

page detailed environmental impact assessment was published in July. It identified that overseas studies of Btk, which has been commercially used in New Zealand since 1984, showed that it is very effective in killing caterpillars of moths and butterflies and its aerial application shows no public health concerns. The caterpillars must eat foliage sprayed with Btk, as it acts on their uniquely alkaline gut and does not harm other insects.

In early September a 65 page health risk assessment report on Btk spraying of Auckland's eastern suburbs, by Public Health A+ and Jenner Consultants Ltd, was published. It evaluated the pest control formulation Foray 48B which contains the biological agent Btk and drew on 30 years' overseas experience with its use.

Additives in Foray 48B, in the form of three preservatives, an acidity regulator, a sticking agent and a stabiliser, were all considered safe when used as food additives. Because the size of the droplets