

system, in order to meet any market requests for evidence of such activities.

For a forestry company the value of certification depends on the end point in mind. ISO 14 001 is a useful management systems tool, FSC is a useful marketing tool. The New Zealand "report card" may or may not be useful as a marketing tool, depending on its degree of acceptance internationally. There is still a large amount of development work needed to be done with it.

The costs of certification are high, running into the tens of thousands of dollars plus ongoing auditing costs. FSC is significantly more expensive than ISO 14

001 in the earlier stages. Some of these costs can be shared — for example the Farm Forestry Association can become certified on behalf of certain of its members.

Despite some surveys suggesting that the customer is prepared to pay a premium for certified wood (see Ozanne and Bigsby, 1997) the reality has proved different. Still those companies that have gained FSC certification have at least maintained market share, which in these times must be an advantage.

It may seem that the forestry sector is being picked on ahead of other sectors, notably agriculture, with regard to envi-

ronmental issues. New Zealand foresters are already subject to a host of legislative requirements including the Resource Management Act 1991 and Forests Act 1949. Be that as it may, Forestry companies need to be able to respond to the marketplace and public perceptions and foresters should be thinking through the responses that best fit their circumstances.

Tim Thorpe

References

Ozanne, Lucie and Bigsby, Hugh, 1997. *The Willingness To Pay*. Auckland: New Zealand Pine.



RECENT EVENTS



Forest Companies Restructure

Both Fletcher Challenge Forests and Rayonier New Zealand have recently announced major restructuring plans.

Fletcher Challenge Forests in late April announced a new management structure which will see 34 management and technical positions in the company's forest operations being lost. This is about 8% of total staff.

Six new business groups have been formed.

There will be four business groups focusing on different markets:

- North American Business Solutions which includes American Wood Mouldings, the new Taupo sawmill (Taupo Solid Lineal Mouldings) and the Mt Maunganui wood processing plant.
- Japanese Housing Solutions which includes the relatively new Kawerau laminating plant and Waipa Sawmill.
- Australasian Consumer Solutions which includes both structural lumber and Ramsey Roundwood, Rainbow Mountain and Kawerau sawmills, Waipa remanufacturing and Mount Maunganui Plywood.
- Global Industrial Sales and Trading which includes log and lumber sales, sales of industrial products to key customers and third party purchases of logs and lumber.

Two resource-based units will manage the forests in New Zealand and Chile. They will be charged to supply wood to the business-market groups at market prices and to make the most efficient use of the wood crop. Eight support functions will be shared by the six business units

and have a co-ordinating role.

According to Ginny Radford, the Director of Communications, the move was away from the concept that the company was primarily into growing wood and owning resources to a more direct link between the forests and the markets via the four business groups. That is why there has been expansion in value-added processing over the last few years.

In mid February Fletcher Challenge Forests also announced a new brand name — Origin — designed to emphasise the quality of its products from the Central North Island.

Rayonier New Zealand announced its

restructuring in late February in which 20 positions were lost out of a total staff of 230 people. In the process it has:

- Reduced from five to three districts in the Forest Resources Division.
- Reduced from six to four managers in the Operations and Log Marketing Division.
- Merged research and technical functions in Auckland and scaled down some other Head Office functions.

Even with these changes Rayonier staff still remain in all previous locations. No changes at their MDF plant in Mataura were announced at this time.

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

The new Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry came into being on the 1st March with Bruce Ross as Director-General. The purpose of the new organisation is to ensure agriculture, forestry and horticulture continue to make the best contribution to New Zealand's sustainable development and economic growth. One of the key functions will be to manage biosecurity. It will also manage the Crown's forestry interests and commitments. MAF Quality Management (MQM) which includes services such as meat inspection, animal health laboratories etc. have been transferred to the new Ministry as separate business units in the meantime, but may be commercialised before the end of 1998.

Under the Director-General is the Deputy Director-General (Biosecurity) —

Peter O'Hara — and ten other senior managers. Murray McAlonan, the Group Manager Forest Management is the most senior forestry person. He has the role of special adviser to the Director-General on forestry and on forestry relationships. Directly under him is the Manager, Indigenous Forestry Unit in Christchurch (Tony Newton), National Manager Forest Health (Ross Morgan), and General Manager Crown Lease Forests (Charlie Schell). Five others are involved in managing crown lease forests or as advisers to the East Coast and Northland projects. Regionally based forestry people in the Policy section are based in Auckland, Rotorua, Nelson, and Christchurch.

Doug Graham who heads the Finance Section also came from MOF and is part of senior management team. Mike Jebson

heads one of the directorates in MAF-Policy and Gordon Hosking has been appointed Chief Forestry Officer in MAF Regulatory Authority (both ex MOF).

Another decision was to reduce forestry facilitation activities carried out by the former Forestry Development Group with a saving of \$2M per annum.

In January 1998 there were 135 staff in the old MOF — there are now 114 ex MOF people in the new Ministry of Forestry and Agriculture, within a total staff of 870.

Lindsay's Day

Book launching:

About 70 people attended the launching of Lindsay Poole's new book "Trees, timber and tranquillity" at the Royal Society of New Zealand's seminar room in Thorndon, Wellington on 7 April 1998. The occasion was significant, not only for the book launch but also because it coincided with Lindsay's 90th birthday. A wide assortment of Lindsay's friends and associates from years past attended. The Hon. Jim Anderton presented an opening address which recognised Lindsay's many contributions to New Zealand's public sector. Priestley Thomson also recounted some of Lindsay's past accomplishments and admitted that he couldn't understand how Lindsay continues to find the energy and motivation to continue writing and publishing books. Lindsay briefly outlined some of his thoughts about politics and forestry and concluded that generally government policies over time have not served the forestry sector very well — partly because of the short term approaches adopted by politicians in the past. He also mentioned that the next book he authors will probably need to be written on tabloids of stone. Mick O'Neill presented Lindsay with a birthday present — a "Big Bertha" driver which will ensure that Lindsay's golf handicap does not balloon out as he continues to participate in his favourite pastime. A very successful evening concluded with Lindsay cutting his large 90th birthday cake followed by drinks and light refreshments and much conversation among attendees about the good old days.

NZIF Award

At the NZIF Conference in Wanganui, Lindsay, who was not present, was awarded a special certificate in honour of his contribution to New Zealand Forestry.

C. Loughlin and D. Mead

Injunction on log exports to USA: recent developments

In July 1997 the San Francisco Court issued an injunction on import permits for certain types of sawn timber, logs and solid-wood products from several countries including New Zealand. A court hearing is scheduled for May 15.

On March 13 the Hon. Lockwood Smith, New Zealand's Minister of Forestry and Minister for International Trade, attacked the New Zealand Forest and Bird Society for sending a submission to the United States Department of Agriculture attacking New Zealand's biosecurity.

According to Dr Lockwood Smith the submission was unjust and unfair. He said: "I find it difficult to believe that any New Zealand organisation would commit this kind of economic sabotage. ... Even if its claims about biosecurity were true, Forest and Bird's action would be reprehensible. One could understand, if we had lax biosecurity, Forest and Bird being concerned about imports to New Zealand but exports from New Zealand would be irrelevant to its concern".

End of all unsustainable management of indigenous forests

Hon. Lockwood Smith, Minister of Forests, announced on April 7 that the Government will push for an end to all unsustainable management of native forests. The areas are relatively small as 77% of natural forest is in the Department of Conservation estate, and most of the remaining forest is covered by the 1993 amendment to the Forestry Act. The 75,000 ha of forest concerned are indigenous forests on lands granted to Maori under the South Island Maoris Act 1906 (SILMA) and the crown land managed by Timberlands West Coast. The Minister has announced that negotiations will begin

with SILMA and has appointed Dr Brent Wheeler to lead the team.

He saw three reasons why the Government was keen to follow this path:

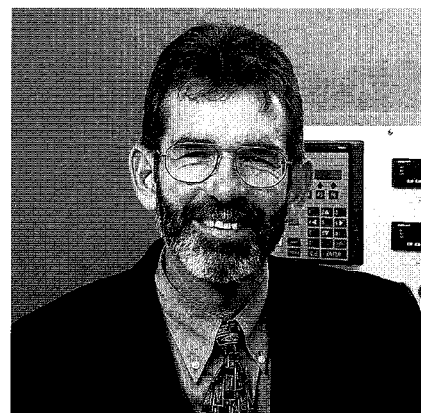
- New Zealanders were pressing to retain existing cover of indigenous forests.
- The remaining unsustainable harvest of indigenous timber was distorting local markets.
- Unsustainable management of forests is a threat to the industry's ability to export forest products.

Forest Research Scientist elected Australasian Pulp and Paper Leader

Dr Bob Allison, Forest Research Project Leader for Chemical Fibre Production, has been elected President of Appita, the technical association of the Australasian pulp and paper industry.

During his term as president, Dr Allison plans to ensure Appita remains a strong and paper companies, such as Carter Holt Harvey, Fletcher Challenge Paper and Australian Paper, are reorganising their operations to ensure competitiveness and value creation for their shareholders. Appita needs to respond positively to these changes and plan for the professional and technical leadership the industry will require now and in the future."

Dr Allison has 26 years' experience as a practising researcher specialising in chemical pulping and bleaching. He leads



Dr Bob Allison.

a \$2 million research team which works with industry to develop improved chemical fibre production and utilisation opportunities.