

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:

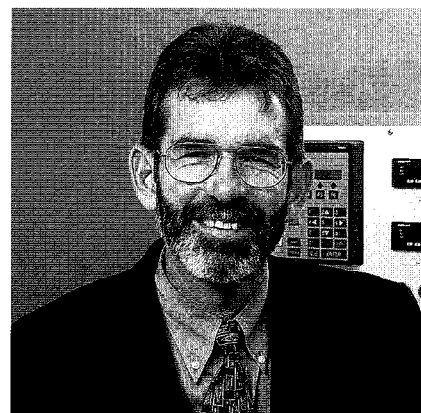
- New Zealanders were pressing to retain existing cover of indigenous forests.
- The remaining unsustainable harvest of indigenous timber was distorting local markets.
- Unsustainable management of forests is a threat to the industry's ability to export forest products.

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.