



February 2012

NZ Forest Owners Association Inc)

The FOA is a voluntary organisation representing the interests of commercial forest growers, facilitating co-operation and co-ordination within the forest industry. FOA member companies currently collectively manage around 1.4 million ha of rural land, 80% of which is planted in plantation trees. The total New Zealand plantation forest area is approximately 1.69 million hectares.

Plantation forests are widespread throughout New Zealand, having been part of the New Zealand landscape since the mid-1800s. New Zealand foresters have extensive experience with different species, regimes, harvest options and associated earthworks.

Plantations provide important economic, community and environmental benefits.

Total harvest for the June 2011 year was an estimated 26.0 million m³, with the capability to increase to around 30 million m³ p.a. in the near future if market conditions and the competitive domestic operating environment allow. It is forecast that sustainable harvest will, in the next 10-15 years, approach 40 million m³. Currently, approximately 6 million m³ of the harvest is processed in New Zealand for New Zealand consumption. A further 6-7 million m³ is processed then exported. The remainder of the harvest is exported in log form. These resources are supplied on an economic and sustainable basis to competitive domestic and international markets.

New Zealand's forests play a vital role in carbon sequestration to mitigate the effects of climate change and helping to meet our international obligations. In addition they offer great potential as the basis for bio-fuels, the development of which will be essential to meet any future renewable energy targets.

Forestry competes for land with other primary production sectors, but is unusual in the level of public good benefits it provides (tramping, horse riding, trail biking, etc) and off-site values (erosion control, water quality, carbon sequestration, etc) that are also typical forest products.

To achieve the forest growing sectors full potential it is essential there is a strong industry organisation to facilitate co-operation and co-ordination within the sector and with government, and to promote and lobby on the sectors behalf with communities, local government and central government.

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Association Structure

FOA leverages its influence via facilitating its members to work co-operatively, notably through a strong committee structure, covering the main activities influencing plantation forestry. The Executive Council is made up of representatives from across the forest sector. Committee chairs are drawn from the Executive Council, with committees covering:

- Administration, Membership and Promotion
- Fire
- Forest Resources & Environment
- Health Safety and Training,
- Transportation
- Forest Biosecurity
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FOA also provides industry representation to relevant Industry Training Organisations (ITO's) such as FITEC and EMQUAL (Emergency Services qualifications), co-ordinating and supplying industry input. Representation is also provided on MAF initiatives such as biosecurity and Government Industry Agreements. The Association is a member of the NZ Agricultural Education Trust, the National Rural Fire Authority (NRFA) and Stakeholders for Methyl Bromide Reduction (STIMBR), B3 (Better Border Biosecurity), Business New Zealand, Wood Council of New Zealand and inputs to a wide range of other fora.

FOA co-ordinates and collates industry input on significant legislation and initiatives affecting the sector. This has recently included providing an industry position and input on:

- National Environmental Standard on Plantation Forestry (NES);
- High Productivity Motor Vehicles;
- The Emissions Trading Scheme;
- MOT Road User Charges Bill 2010;
- Proposed Regulations Restricting the Use of HFC-23 and N₂O CER's in the NZ ETS;
- Proposed Changes to Environmental Reporting;
- Regulatory Standards Bill;
- Proposed National Environmental Standard for Plantation Forestry;
- Proposed National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity;
- ETS Review;
- Forestry Schemes Review;
- 2050 Emissions Reduction Target.

Sector initiatives have recently included negotiations on a National FSC Standard and the NZ Wood programme.

The Association has negotiated and committed its members to a number of significant Accords such as:

- The New Zealand Forest Accord;
- Climate Change Accord;
- Log Transport Safety Accord;



- Eliminating Illegal Forest Products in New Zealand Statement.

Election of Executive Committee Members

Currently the rules of the Association state that the Executive Council shall consist of a President, a Vice President and no less than three and no more than ten Councillors in total. Any member contributing more than 10 percent of the subscription income of the Association is entitled to directly appoint one member to the Executive Council. The number of positions on the Executive Council for election by members is reduced accordingly. Elected members of the outgoing Executive Council are eligible for re-election without further nomination.

Objects of the Association

The objects for which the Association is established are, on behalf of its members, to promote the further development of the forestry sector to achieve a political, economic and social climate conducive to the successful operation of members' businesses on a profitable, competitive, socially responsible and environmentally sustainable basis and, in particular, to advance the interests of members by:

- a. Promoting, protecting and representing the collective interests of members including providing funding and establishing best practice, in relation to matters, whether legislative, regulatory or otherwise, that may affect the forestry sector including:
 - environmental and commercial legislation and regulations;
 - protection of the forest estate from fire, disease, pests or other hazards;
 - economic conditions;
 - training and education;
 - employment;
 - occupational health and safety and accident compensation regimes;
 - research and development; and
 - long-term sustainability of forests in New Zealand.
- b. Undertaking collective activities on behalf of members in, for example, forest protection, employment, marketing and promotion;
- c. interacting with Government with regard to issues that may affect the forestry sector;
- d. positively promoting a public interest in forestry and the benefits of New Zealand's forestry and wood products;
- e. providing a forum for the discussion and resolution of issues affecting members and the forestry sector, and to promote mutual co-operation for joint benefit;
- f. securing funding from government and other appropriate agencies for projects of interest to members;



- g. disseminating relevant information to members;
- h. representing the forestry sector and members on, and interacting with, national and international bodies involved in or affecting the forestry sector;
- i. supporting and encouraging other industries or organisations which use the products and/or by-products from forests; and
- j. undertaking any other activities to advance the interests of members.

