

February 2012

How will the Levy be Spent in the First Year

Section 10 of the Commodity Levies Act 1990 governs the use of commodity levy funds.

In the first year levy funds will be directed at the following programs:

Research

The opportunity for industry and New Zealand is to increase the profitability of forestry and provide flow on economic benefits to New Zealand. This can be achieved by improving the net value of the harvested trees, enhancing the production and quality of the trees in the ground, and establishing new forests that are faster growing, higher quality, disease resistant and in some cases delivering new forest products such as carbon and energy. Enhanced high quality research effort is required. In particular focussed research is required in the following priority areas:

1. Improved crop productivity and consistency;
2. Foliar disease resistance, while also increasing productivity, tree and stand consistency and wood properties;
3. Remote sensing to reduce operational costs and improve forest health and environmental monitoring;
4. Chemical usage, especially herbicide application;
5. Operational research;
6. Steep land harvesting;
7. Log fumigation, especially technologies that will reduce the release of Methyl Bromide to the atmosphere;
8. Fire research.

Market Development

NZ Wood is a major promotional and development programme to promote New Zealand forests and wood resources to improve our economy, society and our whole way of life.

The forest industry provides a significant opportunity to meet the governments export targets to treble the value of the country's exports over the next fifteen years. The industry can achieve this by improving efficiency in the growing, harvesting, transportation and processing sectors of the forest industry.

Biosecurity

FOA represents industry in a number of biosecurity forums such as the Forest Biosecurity Consultative Committee and for GIA development and implementation. The Forest Biosecurity Committee manages biosecurity research, the NZ Dothistroma Control Programme and the FOA Forest Surveillance Scheme.

Training

FOA contributes \$450,000 per annum to the forest industry training organisation – FITEC. This counts as industry contribution under Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) rules which means FITEC can leverage this funding and access an additional \$1,186,000 of government funds for use in forest industry training.

FOA also facilitates expert industry input for qualification development by FITEC and the Emergency Management ITO – EMQUAL, through representation on technical advisory groups.

An FOA representative is a trustee on the NZ Agrichemical Education Trust (NZAET) which owns and manages the Growsafe qualifications.

Representation

FOA represents plantation forest owners at central government, local government and across industry sectors. This ensures forest owner interests are known and part of the decision-making system. A significant challenge for FOA is in obtaining and understanding the position of forest owners of different size, age class distribution, ownership structure, species, management aim, etc. This means the Association must employ robust information delivery and consensus position determination systems. Communications with stakeholders and sector representatives will be a significant task.

