

Static electricity talks

Submissions to the Electricity Commission about Transpower's proposed new 400 kV powerline into Auckland, reveal deep concerns about Transpower's dealings with farmers and forest owners.



Easement agreements are essential when lines are upgraded
The more power going down the line, the greater the potential liability for an outage

"No one doubts the need for the nation to have a secure electricity supply. But this does not justify Transpower trampling over the legal rights of land owners," says NZFOA president Peter Berg.

"We are very concerned that despite 10 years of talks with Transpower, agreement has not been reached on a standard easement agreement for the installation or upgrade of transmission lines passing over private property. With an element of reasonableness from Transpower this could have been tidied up long ago.

"The lack of a template weakens the negotiating hand of individual land owners, who are already at a huge disadvantage when dealing with a state-owned monopoly."

At first glance, the legal rights of line companies and land owners are straight forward. Where new lines need to be installed, or existing lines need to be upgraded, the lines company must acquire an easement from the owner of the land. Often this involves one-to-one negotiation or, where this fails, the lines company may use the powers of the Public Works Act to acquire an easement and access rights.

At this point, the position becomes murky. This is largely because lines companies want to minimise their ongoing liability for maintaining the land under the line. This is particularly true of Transpower, which needs to meet tough cost-benefit tests before investing in new infrastructure.

"By claiming less effect on land than is actually the case, and by imposing the cost of maintaining land under the line on land owners, lines companies can reduce both their capital and operating cost," Berg says.

In a submission to the Electricity Commission, Federated Farmers says Transpower's behaviour regarding the proposed 400 kVA line has left many land owners distressed and angry.

"Transpower has pressured a number of land owners into signing agreements that may have resulted in the land owner receiving inadequate compensation," says vice president Don Nicholson.

There is a history of land owners throughout New Zealand having bitter disputes with Transpower over the maintenance and upgrade of existing lines.

"Before 1992, lines companies never bothered to enter into clear reasonable agreements

where their lines crossed private land, because the law didn't require them to. Since then they have tried to maintain this state of affairs, while claiming that land owners have liability for any 'outages' caused by damage to those lines," NZFOA chief executive David Rhodes says.

Getting rid of this liability is one of the first priorities for land owners negotiating an easement for a line upgrade. It's also a good reason for a lines company to try and muscle land owners into letting them put more equipment on existing pylons, or send more power down existing lines, without resolving who's liable.

"This is clearly unfair. A fire might get out of control, a topdressing aircraft could clip a line, or trees could cause a short-circuit. The more power there is going through the line, the more customers there will be using it, and the greater the potential liability," Rhodes explains.

"It is one of the reasons why 'maintenance' is defined narrowly in law as being the maintenance of an existing service or equipment."

Mr Berg says it is important that lines companies pay fair compensation to land owners, so the delivered price of electricity reflects the true cost of production and supply.

"This will encourage the generation of power close to where it is used. At present, the huge production loss which results from power lines crossing forest land is only partially compensated. This is in effect a subsidy paid by forest and land owners to Transpower."

A proposed template for an easement agreement is available at [/www.nzfoa.org.nz/file_libraries/agreements_accords/agreement_to_grant_an_easement_powerlines](http://www.nzfoa.org.nz/file_libraries/agreements_accords/agreement_to_grant_an_easement_powerlines)

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Forest of dreams

By NZFOA chief executive David Rhodes

Forest structures shape-up

Building a pan-industry position and voice for forestry has been a challenge both in New Zealand and overseas.

Other industries share this challenge, but few are as diverse as ours, with tens of thousands of growers and investors, and hundreds of processors. Add to this the raft of different ownership structures from individual growers and investors through to public companies and international pension funds.

The industry sometimes get criticised at a political level for not having a common view on all issues. But the commercial reality is

that growers, sawmillers, manufacturers and exporters sometimes have diverging interests and priorities.

Issues important to one sector may be peripheral to the core business of others. Reaching a consensus on these is usually unnecessary and risks diluting the positions of individual sectors so much that they become meaningless.

But there are times when the industry can maximise its influence and potential by working in concert.

A recent forum in Auckland organised to discuss the promotion of wood (including forests) within New Zealand was a good example (see story page 4).

Key forestry associations collaborated in preparing the proposal and the forum was held under the umbrella of WoodCo, the Wood Council of New Zealand. The outcome was a commitment from growers and processors to co-fund a multi-year promotion.

WoodCo is a partnership of growers and processors which provides a single point of contact for government and the industry, especially

on issues related to the implementation of the Forest Industry Development Agenda.

WoodCo's launch late last year – at a time when poor market returns could have led to division rather than unity – marked an important milestone in the industry's evolution.

This was achieved by making WoodCo an 'association of associations', rather than a pre-eminent industry organisation, or peak of an industry pyramid. Individual sector associations like the NZFOA are still the powerhouses for their parts of the value chain.

This structure required a new organisation to be set up to represent the full spectrum of wood processors, manufacturers and exporters, to ensure their interests were properly represented on the WoodCo board. Hence the formation of the Wood Processors Association (WPA) in September 2005.

As a prime supporter of the establishment of both WoodCo and WPA, the NZFOA is pleased to see both associations in business and making a contribution. The wood promotion initiative is a great start. ■

Stronger world voice

Forestry is also getting a stronger and better coordinated voice internationally.

I recently attended the second meeting of the International Council of Forest and Paper Associations (ICFPA). An association of associations, ICFPA could be seen as the international equivalent of WoodCo.

Formed only four years ago, the group has the potential to provide a much-needed voice for forestry in international meetings. In its absence, other players were in the past free to take the podium and 'interpret' a forestry view.

As part of establishing its credentials and philosophy the ICFPA has released a series of statements on issues such as plantation forestry, certification and illegal logging. (http://www.icfpa.org/issues_statements/statements/index.php) The recent meeting saw the agreement and release of a CEO leadership statement setting out the industry's commitment to global sustainability, which has since been endorsed by the NZFOA.

With a spirit of cooperation which recognises that we rise and fall together, the areas of common accord across the industry both domestically and internationally may be surprisingly frequent. ■

Research

'Better dress' includes research

Forest owners and their main research provider are developing a new research structure dubbed Future Forests Research Limited.

"All aspects of the industry are getting better dressed," says NZFOA executive director David Rhodes. "This is another example."

The structure will replace the research cooperatives which manage most forest production research in New Zealand and was foreshadowed in the last issue of *Forestry Bulletin*.

"FFR will amalgamate the activities of the five existing cooperatives. It may also incorporate the Forest Biosecurity Research Council when its current funding ends in 2007," says NZFOA research committee chair Peter Clark.

Leaders of each research theme will report to a full-time chief executive who will profes-

sionally manage the organisation, delivery and dissemination of research outcomes. This person will manage the relationship with government funding agency FRST with the support of Ensis, the Scion/CSIRO Joint Venture.

The initial research themes are radiata pine management, species diversification, environmental and social, and harvesting & logistics. Theme leaders will form a management committee to advise the board on research strategy and to ensure integration across themes.

Consultant Russell Dale is working with industry and Ensis to get the new structure up and running. ■

WoodCo gets on with business

WoodCo, which represents the forest industry on sector-wide interests, is working on a industry strategic plan.

The aim is to establish those areas of policy where the industry is of one mind and will benefit from acting collectively.

WoodCo's acting chair, Tony Johnston, says the plan will identify in a formal way what the issues are and how they should best be handled.

It's not headline grabbing work, but he says WoodCo was not intended be an "agent of revolutionary change".

The allocation of public good research funding will inevitably be an important part of the strategic plan. Determining where this can be applied for greatest industry benefit will require directors to set aside patch-protection and to think globally.

"We also need to engage with the government regarding its Forest Industry Development Agenda so it is implemented in a way which results in the greatest benefit of the industry," Johnston says.

Members of the WoodCo board are: Peter Berg, Phil Langston and Lees Seymour of the NZFOA; David Anderson, Peter Springford and Marty Verry of the Wood Processors Association; Mike Halliday of the Farm Forestry Association; John Stulen of the Forest Industry Contractors Association; and Owen Griffiths of the Pine Manufacturers Association.

The Timber Industry Federation has also been given an open invitation to join.

"It would be great to have them at the table, whenever the time is right for them," Johnston says. 🇳🇿

Kiwi for FSC board?



Brian Pritchard

The NZFOA and NZ Farm Forestry Association are supporting the nomination of Brian Pritchard as a director of the Forest Stewardship Council.

The FSC logo is the most credible international symbol of timber produced in an environmentally and socially sustainable way.

Pritchard is forest division general manager of Pan Pac Forest Products Limited, a Hawke's Bay company which sustainably manages 41,000 hectares of plantation forests.

An NZFOA councillor since 2003, he was heavily involved in the establishment of the NZ National Environmental Standard.

Pritchard's involvement with FSC goes back to the late-1990s when demand from its US customers encouraged Pan Pac to certify its forests. The forests have been certified since 2001 and it also runs an FSC Group Certification Scheme for small private forest owners.

"Not surprisingly I have a strong interest in the FSC plantation review now underway," he says.

Pritchard is an individual member of the FSC northern [developed country] economic chamber and in December 2005 represented the NZFOA at the FSC general assembly in Manus.

If elected, he says his experience will assist the FSC board in building consensus between its social, environmental and economic chambers.

There are nine directors on the international board and Pritchard's nomination was voted on by FSC members at the end of June with a mid-September deadline for voting returns. Appointments will be made before the end of this year. 🇳🇿

WPA gets stuck in

The Wood Processors Association of New Zealand (WPA) was formed last year as part of the process which enabled the creation of WoodCo. Peter Bodeker is chief executive and David Anderson, managing director of Winstone Pulp International (WPI), chairman.

The association shares premises with the NZFOA and the NZ Farm Forestry Association in Wellington. The close working relationship between the staff of the three organisations as well as the Nelson-based Pine Manufacturers Association is a great strength.

Bodeker says WPA membership accounts for up to 75 per cent of New Zealand's primary wood processing capacity. "But we've not been aggressive in selling membership – we'd prefer to focus on getting runs on the board," he says.

Bodeker's been working with the other forest sector executives to develop the strategy for the *For Wood* promotional campaign. While any success in building demand for structural timber will flow on to forest growers, the front-line of the campaign will be the sawn wood market.

"We've advocated for the industry in the finalisation of NZS 3604, which provides users with a guarantee of strength and stiffness for machine-graded timber," he says.



Peter Bodeker
Impressed by sector's determination to improve its performance

"We've made submissions on Wayne Mapp's Probationary Employment Bill which we believe offers big benefits to young people entering the workplace, as well as to employers. We're also looking at the timber preservation standards which were so controversial during the last election campaign.

"It's all domestic industry-good work – we have prioritised this over the international issues which were the focus of the former FIC."

The key issues on Bodeker's to-do list are power supply, monetary policy (exchange rate instability is a major problem for export processors), Kyoto, standards and wood promotion.

"We're coming together well.

And I'm getting around the country, getting a handle on what everyone is doing.

"People have been very open and willing to discuss issues with me. There is a determination among the major players to improve the performance of the sector which I find impressive."

Any firm that processes New Zealand's log crop for national and international sale is eligible to join the WPA. Contact: Peter Bodeker, tel 04 473 9220, email peter@wpa.org.nz, www.wpa.org.nz 🇳🇿

Export standards revised

Revised Biosecurity New Zealand (BioNZ) export phytosanitary certification standards came into effect on 1 June.

"These are intended to allow manufacturers and exporters (organisations) to develop innovative and efficient phytosanitary certification systems appropriate to their businesses," says MAF Biosecurity forest exports adviser Paul BurrIDGE.

"At the same time the standards continue to provide Biosecurity New Zealand and the importing country with the required level of assurance that the exported product complies with the specified import requirements."

Organisations have until 1 September 2007 to transfer to the new system.

Under the revised standards, BioNZ delegates authority for the provision of phytosanitary services to Independent Verification Agencies (IVAs) which hold ISO 17020 accreditation.


In turn, organisations may undertake certain phytosanitary activities if their systems are evaluated and audited by their chosen IVA and

approved by BioNZ. However, under the revised standards, these approved organisations will still need to get phytosanitary certificate verification from an IVA.

Companies which choose not to become approved under the revised BioNZ standards will retain the option of obtaining phytosanitary certification through an IVA End Point Consignment Inspection process.

"These standards do pose some significant changes to the way forest product exports are certified. However, for many companies, gaining approval may simply be a case of modifying their current operating system for consideration by Biosecurity New Zealand," BurrIDGE says.

He says a guideline document is being developed to help organisations to comply with the revised standards. This should be available on the Biosecurity New Zealand website shortly.

www.biosecurity.govt.nz/commercial-exports/forestry-exports/export-certification-standards 

Research for better biosecurity

The health of forests and protection of forestry exports will benefit from three new research projects.

They focus on pesticide risk reduction, mitigation of *Nectria* flute canker, and the improvement of quarantine treatments for exported goods.

The NZFOA worked with research providers to submit the funding bids. Funding comes from voluntary levies paid by NZFOA members which have been used to leverage funds from the government's Forest Industry Development Agenda (FIDA).

Under FIDA, which supersedes the government's Wood Processing Strategy, the government will – subject to getting industry co-funding – invest \$18.1 million into the development of the forest industry.

Over the five years starting June 2005-06, market access gets \$1.2 million, bio-energy \$2.5 million, skills and training \$4.4 million and wood design \$2 million. Market development gets \$8 million over four years.

The projects will be administered through the Forest Biosecurity Research Council, which is chaired by the NZFOA.

Reducing pesticide risks

Pesticide risk reduction has the potential to reduce costs to growers, lessen environmental impacts, assist certification, and address public health concerns. The research aims to improve the efficiency of aerial spraying and other types of applications to control *Dothistroma*.



Finding an effective biological control for gumleaf skeletoniser is likely to improve the viability of *Eucalyptus* forestry in New Zealand. Studies carried out during the 1980s resulted in huge improvements in *Dothistroma* treatment, enabling spray volumes to be reduced from 50 litres/ha to 5 litres/ha. Researchers hope to reduce spray volumes and to possibly further reduce copper rates through improved aerial spray technologies and chemical formulations. There is also significant scope to target pockets of infection rather than carrying out broadcast operations.

Biological control options for gumleaf skeletoniser (*Uraba lugens*), which defoliates many *Eucalyptus* species, will also be investigated as part of this project.


Mitigating *Nectria*

Nectria flute canker is a problem for forest growers in the southern South Island. This project aims to develop practical management solutions, including silvicultural techniques to reduce infection, such as avoiding pruning at certain specific times and targeting smaller branch sizes. Stub treatments and bio-protectants will also be tested to protect wounds from fungal infection.

Data from delimiting surveys and fundamental ecological research will also be analysed to determine where the disease hits with most severity, and what conditions affect its development. This information will help foresters predict what parts of the country are likely to be most susceptible to the disease.

Quarantine treatment options

The third project aims to develop environmentally-friendly alternatives to fumigation with methyl bromide. Non-ozone-depleting fumigants such as phosphine and sulphuryl fluoride will be evaluated against specific pests with a view to making them acceptable to trading partners.

Heat treatment and light trapping offer alternative methods of ensuring exports are free of certain pests. These techniques, which have already been developed and successfully trialled, require further refinement to optimise their efficiency in industrial applications. 

Green ribbon to forest engineers

Hawkes Bay forest engineering contractor MW Lissette Limited has won a 2006 Green Ribbon environmental award.

MWL is owned and managed by Bruce and Christine Lissette and for the past eight years has provided contract services to Pan Pac Forests.

The company won the rural sustainability award for forestry roads which surpass industry safety and environmental standards. Their citation says the company "goes above and beyond the call of duty".

"They take particular notice of the potential impacts of their work. Careful route selection ensures minimum crossing of streams, unstable slopes and other sensitive areas," says the citation.

"They avoid unnecessary earth-moving and construction. Drainage systems are constructed with culverts planned for the highest expected peak flow. Roading is constructed to the narrowest width possible. By minimising sediment and pollutant run-off and reducing erosion, the impacts on waterways and surrounding landscapes are significantly reduced.



The MW Lissette winning crew
A Green Ribbon Award for commendable attention to detail in achieving environmentally sustainable outcomes

"The level of planning and construction undertaken by the company, and the attention to detail for environmentally sustainable outcomes is commendable."


Managing director Bruce Lissette says good forest roads are crucial for effective forest management, but says unnecessary or poorly located earthworks can cause erosion, impact on scenery, biodiversity and overall water quality.

"We take great pride in the fact that in our eight years working for Pan Pac there has been no significant environmental degradation resulting from our activity. Nor have we

had any staff off work as a result of workplace injuries," he says.

"In that time we have built 120 km of new roads, maintained 1150 km of existing roads and built about 3000 landings."

He says a key success factor has been the company's commitment to staff training.

"Having a well-qualified workforce ensures on-site planning is completed to specification. Everyone in the business understands our commitment to outstanding performance in planning, construction and maintenance, and is trained to deliver this." 

Marketing

Forest benefits to promote wood

Forest sustainability will be strongly emphasised in a multi-million dollar promotion of the use of wood in building and construction in New Zealand.

The forest growing and processing sectors have each agreed to stump up \$280,000 a year, for at least three years. The balance will come from the government's FIDA fund.

The promotion will be run by the chief executives of WoodCo, the NZFOA and other industry associations and will be governed by the WoodCo board.

NZFOA president Peter Berg says the association had been planning for more than 12 months to embark on a communications programme to address public misconceptions about forestry.

"When it became clear that the government was willing to promote energy-efficient construction through the FIDA fund, we decided to fold our promotion into one with wider objectives," he says.

"While the details of the promotion have yet to be finalised, it will include the promotion of the environmental and social benefits of forestry alongside the greater use of wood as a construction material."

The decision to support the promotion was made in late June at a two day workshop of 41 invited forest industry leaders sponsored by WoodCo.

"Most wood for construction in New Zealand is used as structural framing lumber – this is especially true of Radiata pine," says WoodCo chairman Tony Johnston.

"We will be looking to extend its use in non-residential buildings. Its use for appearance functions such as exterior cladding, windows, doors and floors has diminished somewhat in recent times and we will be looking to regain some of that lost ground.

"Wood is absolutely coming into its own as a building and decorative material with the concern about global warming and the need to concentrate on renewable resources."

The promotion is expected to get underway late 2006 or in early 2007. 

Hi-vis popular



Almost a fashion item

Demand among forest contractors for NZFOA-registered high visibility garments is growing. In May, four manufacturers applied to have their garments registered by the association.

NZFOA office manager Christine Molineux says 14 manufacturers now have registered with the scheme since the NZFOA launched its guidelines in 2003.

The NZFOA guidelines were a response to 1999 regulations which set Australasian pan-industry standards for generic safety garments. These standards were largely inappropriate for forestry, but the regulations did allow for specific industries to set their own standards.

"Working closely with OSH, the University of Waikato and safety clothing suppliers' the association developed its own guidelines," says NZFOA safety committee chair Sheldon Drummond.

Colours required for normal purposes are either fluorescent orange or fluorescent yellow, with specifications based on NZS 5839:1986. The minimum area of fluorescent material on the front and back torso area of the garments is specified.

There are two standard garment classes: Forest Industries Day Time and Forest Industries Day and Night. The former provides high visibility under daylight conditions and is intended for the bulk of the forest workers. The latter provides high visibility for truck drivers, machine operators and other workers who operate under both day and night conditions.

Manufacturers whose garments meet the standard and are registered with the NZFOA are given a unique NZFOA registration number, which is required to be included as a label in or on the garment.

For more information on the NZFOA high visibility garment guidelines and design registration scheme, contact: Christine Molineux, email christine@nzfoa.org.nz

Landowners need legal protection

Forest owners support the mapping and physical identification of 'paper roads' and other existing legal access ways which cross private land.

"In areas where there is high public demand for access but no legal access, greater use should be made of the provisions of the New Zealand Walkways Act 1990," says NZFOA executive director David Rhodes in a submission to the government's Walking Access Consultation Panel.

He admits to being somewhat mystified by the energy which is being devoted to the access 'issue' and the previous focus on controversial solutions.

"We are not convinced that there is a widespread unsatisfied demand for access through private rural land to waterways, the conservation estate, or areas of high recreational value. Instead, the demand is specific to certain districts where, often as a result of accidents of history, land erosion and accretion, there is inadequate public access, or such access is in the wrong place," he says.

"If there is the political will, these shortcomings can be easily addressed through the use of the Walkways Act or, where improved access is deemed to be essential, via the Public Works Act. These Acts ensure land owners are adequately compensated for the loss of property rights.

"Local bodies also have a role to play in negotiating with land owners over the fate of paper roads, many of which may be better replaced by suitably located walkways."

NZFOA environmental committee chair Peter Weir says those who venture into the outdoors for recreation need to be made aware of accepted codes of behaviour. This work, the management of existing access and the purchase of land for new access ways, needs to be funded and co-ordinated by an independent Crown agency.

"However, we are concerned that the Consultation Document nowhere acknowledges the primacy of private property. Nor does it spell out that any access initiatives must respect in full the established legal rights of all parties, including landholders, the public and Maori," Weir says.

"The authors talk of the need for public access to waterway margins to be 'certain' and

'enduring', but unless land owners sell or voluntarily cede their existing rights, enduring access can't be assured.

"Where landholders have a legal right to control and curtail public access, they must be allowed to continue to exercise that right. It may be appropriate for an owner to grant access today, but not tomorrow.

"Forests need to be harvested. Sometimes they are converted to other uses. People and circumstances change.

"Every weekend thousands of New Zealanders use forest land for hunting, tramping, mountain biking, orienteering and other activities. But most importantly, they first ask the owners or managers for permission."



The hazardous activities that take place in plantation forests are incompatible with uncontrolled public access

This means they could be kept away from operational areas, and each other. The hazardous activities that take place in plantation forests are incompatible with uncontrolled public access.

Given the large numbers of New Zealanders who use private rural land for recreational pursuits with the permission of the landholders, Weir says he is surprised by the limited focus by the Panel and its predecessors on ensuring that landholders who provide this service do not expose themselves to extra legal liabilities and financial risks.

Seeking the appropriate legislative changes, including a means of enforcing a rural Code of Conduct, are the main access policy priorities for the Association, he says. ■

Raw deal for Nelson trees

The application of treated urban sewage sludge (also known as bio-solids) to a 1000 ha *Pinus radiata* plantation at Rabbit Island near Nelson has led to a significant increase in tree growth.

The large-scale trial, undertaken by Ensis and partially funded by the Sustainable Farming Fund, was set up in 1997 to monitor the effects of bio-solids on tree growth and the environment. If the practice is shown to be profitable and sustainable, forest-based bio-solids application may be adopted in other parts of New Zealand.

Aerobically digested industrial and residential wastewater sludge was applied to a 4 ha trial site within the plantation in 1997, 2000 and 2003 using a specially designed mobile spreader, similar to a water cannon, at two application rates: 300 kg N/ha (standard) and 600 kg N/ha (high). A control area was left untreated. A fourth bio-solids application is due in October this year.

In July 2005, 14-year old trees getting the standard treatment had a basal area 31% greater and a stem volume 33% greater than the control. Trees getting the high treatment had a 45% greater basal area and 46% greater stem volume than the control. Bio-solids application also significantly increased the mean top height.

The research indicates the growth improvements are due to better nitrogen supply. Researchers say a similar growth response would be expected on other sites where nutrients – particularly nitrogen – are deficient, including on clay soils. Soils on Rabbit Island are sands.

The only apparent negative is a small but significant reduction in wood density and stiffness. However, the researchers believe this will be outweighed by the increase in total volume growth.

More detailed studies on wood properties being conducted at present and economic analysis will hopefully confirm this, says Hailong Wang, a senior scientist at Ensis Environment.

Economic analysis indicates the increased economic returns from treated trees can



Spreading the biosolids in the forests

A further five years of research is needed to be absolutely certain that the practice is sustainable

potentially offset the cost of transporting and applying the bio-solids.

Regular monitoring of groundwater and soil quality has shown the treatment has not caused any measurable adverse effects to the receiving ecosystem to date. A build-up of soil organic matter, nitrogen and phosphorus, indicates improved site productivity.

Monitoring of heavy metals has shown a small increase in concentrations of copper and zinc in the topsoil in the high treatment. However, the concentrations are very low and of no environmental concern.

"In fact, foliage nutrition analysis indicates that trees on the site need more copper to be healthier," says Dr Wang.

The Rabbit Island forest is owned by the Tasman District Council and is managed on a commercial basis by PF Olsen and Company. By applying biosolids to the forest, nutrient discharge into the Waimea estuary has been significantly reduced.

The council, Olsens and Ensis would like to see the trial continue for another five years and will be seeking further funding assistance from the Sustainable Farming Fund.

To be absolutely sure of the sustainability of the practice, nutrient movement in the soil needs continued monitoring, as does tree productivity and wood quality.

PF Olsen forestry consultant Peter Wilks says there is tremendous potential for reducing sludge disposal into the marine environment if bio-solids can be applied to forest land.

But this potential will only be realised if it can be shown to be sustainable.

Acknowledgements

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Ensis is the unincorporated joint venture between Crown Research Institute Scion, and Australia's CSIRO.

Asher on water panel

NZFOA executive member George Asher has been appointed to the Water Programme of Action ministerial advisory group.

He is one of 12 leaders, representing a cross-section of New Zealand sectors and regions, named in June by forestry minister Jim Anderton and environment minister David Benson-Pope. Asher is chief executive of the Lake Taupo Forest Trust and general manager of the Lake Rotoaira Forest Trust.

The government's Sustainable Water Programme of Action is intended to improve water quality and provide for growing demands for water.

FSC pesticide haggie



Colin Maunder

What we are up against are activists who think in black and white terms

Forest owners with Forest Stewardship Council certification are fighting for the right to use a handful of key pesticides. The council has rejected their argument that eliminating pesticide use is not yet a realistic goal (*Forestry Bulletin*, Autumn 2006).

The issue is crucial for the future of the FSC, with some ENGOs threatening to resign if the pesticides continue to be used. For their part, many of the largest plantation growers in Australasia and North America may be forced to seek certification elsewhere if the FSC refuses to allow their continued use.

Colin Maunder of Timberlands Limited, says the issue brings to a head the conflicting philosophies of forest growers and some overseas ENGOs.

"As growers, we support any initiative that improves the sustainability of our forests, but the improvements must be measurable and based on good science. What we are up against are activists who think in black and white terms ... that there is no such thing as a good pesticide, for example."


He says New Zealand FSC growers have until 31 December to apply to the FSC for derogations for nine pesticides. Top of the list are 1080 and sodium cyanide which are used for vertebrate pest control; and three herbicides widely used for release spraying

– terbuthylazine, haloxyfop and hexazinone. Technical papers supporting derogation have been drafted and are now with New Zealand-based ENGOs for critique.

Meantime, a group dubbed CANZUS (Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United States) is calling for a review of the FSC pesticide rules. Maunder says the review has to be totally independent or neither side will accept its findings.

"We are also arguing that the FSC should not seek to duplicate the systems of pesticide regulation which exist in countries like New Zealand and the United States.

"We've already got some of the toughest pesticide regulations in the world and they're widely accepted as being fair. Why reinvent the wheel?"

On a positive note, Maunder says the recent FSC plantation review has acknowledged that pesticide use in plantations is often essential. It's measure of how polarised the debate has become that such a simple statement of fact should be seen as significant. 

Time to think Dothi

Forest owners are urged to have their forests assessed for *Dothistroma pini* infection and to place their spraying orders by mid-August.

Dothi is a needle blight that affects the health and growth of pine trees. Each summer, affected forests around New Zealand are aerially sprayed with a copper fungicide to control the disease.

This spray programme is co-ordinated by an NZFOA sub-committee to ensure the best control in the most cost-effective manner. Bulk supplies of copper fungicide are bought at competitive rates on the world market; spray oil is purchased; and aerial spray application is contracted.

This service is available to all forest owners – large or small, and regardless of whether they belong to an industry association.

The Dothistroma Control Committee is concerned that forest owners or managers

of small blocks may overlook the presence of the disease in their forests until serious damage to the stands has occurred. Untreated stands also create a source of infection to neighbouring forests.

NZFOA-approved forest health surveyors are Forest Health Dynamics Ltd, Tel 07 332 3454, Fax 07 332 3464 and Target Pest, Tel 03 353 9001.

In order to get the most competitive flying rates, spraying requests need to be made by mid-August. Contact: The Secretary, Dothistroma Control Committee, P O Box 1035, Rotorua, Tel 07 332 3454, Mobile 0274 885 940 or Fax 07 332 3464. 

TVNZ 'unfair' to T1.2


The Broadcasting Standards Authority has ruled that TVNZ was unbalanced in its coverage of timber products treated with Osmose's T1.2 *TimberSaver* on *Close Up* and *One News* in July last year.

The channel was required to make statements summarising its decision on both programmes. It was also required to pay \$22 389 in legal and other costs.

In the authority's view, Osmose's commercial interests and reputation "could well have been directly affected by the inaccurate and unsupported criticism of the product".

The *Close Up* programme included interviews with timber scientist Roger Wakeling, National MP Nick Smith and housing minister Chris Carter.

The authority took particular issue with *Close Up* portraying Wakeling as an independent expert when he was employed by Osmose's main competitor and made unfavourable comparisons of *TimberSaver* with his employer's product. TVNZ was also unwilling to give Osmose a reasonable opportunity to defend its product.

In *the introduction to the One News* item, a statement was made that *TimberSaver* "leaves timber vulnerable to borer or rot". In the authority's view, this was an unequivocal statement which left no room for the possibility that *TimberSaver* was an effective product. 



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email: nzfoa@nzfoa.org.nz, www.nzfoa.org.nz

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