

# No need to treat all framing timber

A proposal that all framing timber used in building construction should be treated to prevent rot has been given the thumbs down by the forest industry.

The proposal was made by the Building Industry Authority (BIA) in the wake of the leaky buildings crisis and the Hunn Report.

In a joint submission to the BIA, major forest industry players including the NZ Forest Owners Association say treatment is needed only for timber used in decks and balconies and for specific high-risk areas and designs.

It is in the interests of the forest industry and the public that buildings do not leak and rot. However, the BIA's proposals will not achieve this objective. Also, mandatory treatment of all framing timber would cost \$275.5-\$305 million a year – adding about \$5000 to the cost of an average house.

"These figures do not include the environmental costs; the impact on the economy of a slowing of building activity due to increased

timber processing times; or the capital costs for an increase in treatment capacity," says NZFIC chief executive Stephen Jacobi.

"The industry is deeply disappointed the BIA has advocated such an extreme approach. This is an organisation with which we have worked well in the past, but which now seems intent on taking a sledgehammer to crack a nut."

Of great concern to forest owners is the impact on Douglas fir production in New Zealand, and the likely unjustified and unnecessary damage to the international reputation of *Pinus radiata*, particularly in developing markets like China and India.

Douglas fir makes up 10 per cent of all framing timber used in NZ homes. There is no evidence that in properly designed and constructed dwellings it is a problem in terms of rotting.

NZFOA president Peter Berg says the Hunn report made no recommendations concerning the use of treated timber.


"Hunn found that leaky buildings are the result of high risk designs, inappropriate materials, poor workmanship and inadequate inspection. In short, systemic failure within the building industry.

"Yet despite this failure, weathertightness claims involve less than 1 per cent of the nearly 230,000 houses constructed in New Zealand since 1992."

Berg says the BIA should take its lead from Vancouver, Canada, which recently had a leaky buildings crisis of its own.

"The response of their regulatory authorities was not to require timber treatment. They focussed on improvements to building practices which are the root cause of the problem," he says.

The submission says there is little justification in requiring all framing timber to be treated when more than 80 per cent is used in low-risk applications such as roof trusses and internal walls.

"It is simply unnecessary ... when cladding systems such as brick veneer, which accounted for 59 per cent of homes in 2002, have no history of problems. The focus should be on keeping water out of houses." 



Untreated Radiata and Douglas fir are excellent framing timbers in most situations

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# In my view

## Inevitable growing pains

There is no reason to conclude from the current difficulties facing the forest industry that it will not reach its vision of being New Zealand's largest exporter by 2025.

The difficulties need to be seen in the context of rapid expansion from a low base. They could be described as inevitable growing pains.

It should be remembered that the industry is already well up the 'wall of wood' and can take credit for the way it has coped with the rapid and substantial increase in the harvest from around 14 million cubic metres in 1994 to around 22 million today – an increase of 57 per cent.

No wonder the industry has been dubbed a sunrise rather than a sunset industry.

In spite of all the focus on so-called new innovative industries, the forest sector is notable for its growth and innovation. Indeed, a small percentage growth in such a large industry far outstrips larger percentage increases in newer – but very small – 'glamour' industries.

There has been an encouraging increase in recent years in added value further processing of forest products.

The increases in sawn timber, furniture and fibreboard in particular have been large – creating significant new employment opportunities, particularly in regions which are new to forestry.

Unfortunately, the public sees little of this. What it does see are piles of logs at the wharf.

Because the growth in processing capacity is lagging behind the growth in production, we are still exporting a higher volume of logs for the commodity trade than we would like.

An unfortunate feature of any commodity-type trade is the relatively high level of price and volume fluctuation. Wood-based products are no exception.

This normal market price volatility is being compounded at present by New Zealand's high exchange rate and large increases in shipping freight rates.

This combination of factors means the industry is facing a period of consolidation as it adjusts to the new economic and trading environment.

Similar to the Asian crisis of a few years ago, this adjustment will unfortunately see some painful outcomes with processing plant and harvesting lay-offs and even factory closures.

Focussing on the longer-term view, we know

the global demand for wood fibre continues to increase at a steady rate; that forests in many other countries are being protected for environmental or flood protection reasons; that the pressure to stop illegal logging is increasing; that the end uses for wood fibre are increasing; and that it is becoming increasingly costly to harvest wood in Russia for example.

We also know that wood is an environmentally sustainable product; is part of the solution to climate change; that New Zealand has extremely favourable growing conditions for radiata pine; sound management and a skilled workforce; a world class research capability; and generally an efficient infrastructure.

All these factors suggest that over the medium to long-term, our forest resources will play an increasing role in the welfare of New Zealand as a whole and for a growing number of regional economies. ■

### Roading

## Foresters unfairly treated by councils

The NZFOA has told the Government it is greatly concerned at the actions of a number of district councils in respect to the provision and funding of roads required for harvested logs.

In a formal letter to the ministers of economic development, Hon Jim Anderton, and forestry, Hon Jim Sutton, the Association has drawn attention to the unreasonable conditions being imposed on forest owners to pay for the upgrading and maintenance of public roads. These include often substantial charges for road upgrading, or the placing of limits on the number of logging truck trips per day on a public road.

"These conditions are unfair," says NZFOA chief executive Rob McLagan.

"Forest owners pay rates during the whole growing period and make very little use of the roads until harvest.

"This is confirmed by an independent report commissioned by the Association, which demonstrates that over the whole rotation, forestry activities make approximately the same demands on roads as other land activities such as dairy and sheep farming.

"The Association will be approaching district councils to discuss this issue in detail with them." ■

### Forest certification

The National Standards Plantation Management Technical Committee (PMTCT) met on 25 August to progress the development of the National Plantation Standards.

Further agreement was reached on some outstanding issues, but on others further work is required. ■

# George Asher: a tangata whenua perspective

Since 1991, Ngati Tuwharetoa's George Asher has been general manager of one of New Zealand's most complex land-based enterprises.

As general manager of the Lake Taupo and Lake Rotoaira Forest trusts, he is accountable to the 10,000 owners of each trust and their representatives.

Planting of the 31,000 ha forests began in 1969 as a joint venture between the Crown and the owners. The Crown invested the capital and the owners leased the land.

An amendment in 2000 reduced the term of the lease to one rotation. Consequently, as the current crop is harvested, the bare land is returned to the trusts for replanting and managing the second rotation in their own right.

Already about 30 per cent of the Taupo forest and 10 per cent of the Rotoaira forest is in trust management.

As a Maori business, the trusts have priorities that go way beyond maximising shareholder financial returns.

"Top of the list is the need to carry out the kaitiaki (stewardship) responsibility and protect the land and its associated taonga," Asher explains.

"Over 30 per cent of the total forestry estate is unplanted, to ensure the protection of sites of cultural and spiritual value, water quality, health of lakes and streams, and biodiversity."

Once this had been achieved, the trusts then set about achieving sustainable asset management protection and financial growth.

The trusts provide annual dividends to their owners and benefits for marae, education, cultural activities and the elderly.

A charitable trust has been established to distribute the social and cultural benefits. The finances are managed by an investment company established and owned by the Lake Taupo Forest Trust. A forestry management subsidiary has been set up to manage the trusts' forestry interests.

The two trusts are governed by a separate set of trustees who are elected every three years by secret ballot. The structure works well.



George Asher

Mr Asher's primary responsibility in 1991 was to advise the trustees on the future planning and development of the trusts.

He states that "The objective was to achieve a world class forest."

Asher has a background as a professional town planner. He worked in this role with the Auckland City Council, Auckland Regional Council and the New Zealand Planning Council.

At the insistence of Ngati Tuwharetoa leaders, he returned to his tribal base in Turangi to assist with the planning and development of the tribal assets. He has since played a key role in major negotiations between Ngati Tuwharetoa and the Crown including SOEs.

Asher acknowledges that everyone, including himself, have undergone a sharp learning and experience curve. He states:

"In assessing the successful transformation of the trusts, the wisdom, foresight and negotiating strength of our elders and leaders must be acknowledged.


"They insisted that the Crown optimise the commercial returns from the forest crop. The

initial owners who agreed to the arrangements sacrificed their own material interests to ensure the benefit of future generations."

He says the Association offers huge benefits to the trusts through its collective wisdom and involvement in all aspects of the industry and its ability to represent members interests at the highest level of debate.

Asher suggests Maori have something special to offer at the NZFOA board table – their experience and knowledge of values that can provide successful alternative ways to meet public expectations and global conventions.

"In fostering our cultural and spiritual values within the business, our trusts have taken on board the interests of the public, and have met the requirements of global conventions such as certification under the 'label' of the Forest Stewardship Council."

The Lake Taupo and Lake Rotoaira Forests attained SFC Certification in 2001. 

## NZFOA Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the NZ Forest Owners Association will be held as follows:

9.00 am, Tuesday 14 October

James Cook Grand Chancellor

147 The Terrace

Wellington

Following the AGM, a forum for Association members will be held to discuss current issues such as Forest Certification and the Kyoto Protocol.

At 11.00 am, the Hon Jim Anderton will address a combined meeting of the Association and the Forest Industries Council

Note: The normal FOA/FIC Industry Conference involving members and wider industry stakeholders will be held in early 2004. Location and dates for the Conference will be advised as soon as the information is available. 

# Increased focus on forest health

A new sustainable management research project will help to ensure that plantation forests are better protected from pests and diseases.

Jointly funded by forest owners and the Government's public good science fund, it targets the biosecurity, protection and risk management of NZ forests.

Dr Brian Richardson of Forest Research, says the Foundation of Research Science and Technology (FoRST) has responded positively. Final funding details are now being negotiated.

NZFOA chief executive Rob McLagan says the

forest owners' cash share for the research programme will be funded through a voluntary add-on to the Forest Health Surveillance fee. He is also hopeful there will be further funding from forest carbon sink credits.

"As owner of the industry's carbon credits, the Government now has a stronger vested interest in ensuring the nation's forests are healthy and productive," McLagan says.

Richardson says one of the main thrusts is to develop a holistic forestry management programme.

Existing pests and diseases will be studied to understand the ecological factors which determine their spread. The influence of other tree and understory species, genetic diversity and habitat will also be examined.

Climate, slope, aspect and altitude will be studied to see how they influence biological and non-biological risks. The latter includes fire, snow and wind damage.

"An outcome of this research is that our forest landscape is likely to change over time. There will be a wider range of species sited in environmental niches and in mixtures that optimise overall resistance to pests and diseases," Richardson says.

The second major thrust is to reduce border risks and to develop more effective responses to pest incursions.

Researchers will aim to develop environmentally acceptable quarantine treatments; rapid detection systems; and improved, more socially acceptable, eradication techniques.

The budget for the overall programme is \$4 million a year, of which around 25 per cent will come from forest owners.

The capitalised benefits are predicted to be about \$12.7 billion, compared with a capitalised cost of \$43 million. ■



Our forest landscape is likely to change over time. Species will be selected for environmental niches and planted in mixtures that optimise resistance to pests and diseases.

## Dothistroma may go walkabout

Regions which don't normally get *Dothistroma* needle blight may have a rude awakening this spring.

Changing weather patterns are the reason.

Districts which are normally summer-moist, like Manawatu, may be spared infections because of last summer's drought. Conversely, Hawkes Bay had an unusually moist summer, which may make it more prone than usual to the fungus.

Don Hammond, convenor of NZFOA's *Dothistroma* Control Committee, says the important message for forest owners is to monitor plantations to enable any infection to be detected in its early stages.

The committee co-ordinates an annual dothi spraying programme on behalf of all forest owners. It buys copper fungicide and spray-

ing oil in bulk, and contracts aerial application of the spray.

"If infections are left uncontrolled, Dothi can cause serious damage to forests. Also, untreated stands are a source of infection to neighbouring forests," Hammond says.

Last year was one of the biggest spraying operations ever carried out in New Zealand. This year, a much smaller area is likely to be sprayed.

"Many larger operations did something of a catch-up last year. However, with the Kiwi dollar close to USD60c, the cost of copper and oil this year is likely to be as cheap as it has ever been."

For more information contact Don Hammond, Tel 07 332 3454, e-mail [don@hrml.co.nz](mailto:don@hrml.co.nz) ■

# Forest biosecurity on the front foot

The future shape of forestry biosecurity is being reviewed, and industry players are encouraged to have their say.

Quite radical ideas are being considered. Among them, the establishment of 'sentinel forests' and 'insect shields' for environments where there is a high-risk of invasion by new pests.



A wide-ranging review of ways to strengthen forest biosecurity began last year

Sentinel forests are made up of species that attract newly-arriving organisms, making them easy to detect and eradicate. Insect shields are plantings of relatively insect-proof species so new incursions don't have a 'staging post' which allows them to penetrate beyond the ports.

Forestry stakeholders can now examine the design, focus and funding of future biosecurity, as proposals developed during the Forest Biosecurity Surveillance Project come up for discussion.

Peter Thomson, MAF director of forest biosecurity, says 'straw man' proposals have been set up, which they hope will be thoroughly tested.

The aim is to have proposals agreed by November, with new programmes developed for implementation in July 2004.

A wide-ranging review of ways to strengthen forest biosecurity began last year. The project – involving MAF, the NZFOA and the Department of Conservation (DOC) – was set up this year.

The review has covered 11 categories, including the basis for deciding where and how surveillance for new incursions is allocated.

The Carter Model, the backbone of forest surveillance since 1989, has been assessed against new data and options.

Thomson says a key issue is the balance of surveillance between forests and high-risk sites such as ports and airports, and whether it would be more effective to allocate greater resource to high-risk sites.

The recently announced sea container inspection protocol is an example of this.

Thomson says the "huge year" for new incursions, with the gypsy moth, fall webworm and gum leaf skeletoniser all detected within a few weeks, has hardened the project team's resolve to get forest biosecurity on the front foot.

Contact: Peter Thomson, Director, MAF Forestry Biosecurity, 04 498 9639 or email [thomsonp@maf.govt.nz](mailto:thomsonp@maf.govt.nz)

## Phosphine research results very promising

Phosphine gas, used appropriately, is 100 per cent effective as a log fumigant. Most importantly, it's cheaper than alternative fumigants.

A report, funded by log exporters through the voluntary research levy, and commissioned by Frontline Biosecurity, reviewed the use of phosphine in shipments of logs to China.

Gordon Hosking of Frontline Biosecurity says he hopes the new data, augmented by ongoing trials, will prompt much wider use of phosphine.

Methyl bromide is to be phased out internationally by 2005, because of its aggressive action on the ozone layer. However, its use with logs as a quarantine measure is a permitted exception.

Hosking says use of methyl bromide on NZ logs has quadrupled in the past two years as export volumes grow, although on a world scale use is still modest.

World-wide, phosphine is the most widely-used grain fumigant, with detailed protocols and measurement tools available. However it has not been used for logs and sawn timber.

One issue is that 100 per cent eradication depends on a combination of time, temperature and constant concentrations. For log shipments anywhere but Australia, the length of time is not an issue, and the ship's hold is potentially the ideal environment for controlled release of the gas. At present this has to be topped up manually, by a technician travelling with the cargo.

Hosking says the research, also supported by the Ministry for the Environment's Sustainable Management Fund, and by Frontline Biosecurity, is moving on to finding a slow-release formulation for the gas. Research is also aimed at developing treatment effective within the same 24-hour timeframe as methyl bromide. This could be used for shipments such as sawn timber to Australia, and would attract international interest.

"The research cost is around \$100,000. The potential benefit is in the millions," Hosking says.

## Laying it on the (rail) line

The forest industry supports Government repurchase of the rail tracks. But it then wants their use to be opened to the private sector through an open competitive process – at least for the initial selection of a rail operator.

It does not want the Government to own the rail tracks and operate the system itself. Nor does it want to see monopoly rights granted to one operator. Any introduction of subsidies would be opposed.

Members of the NZFOA and NZFIC put this position to transport minister Paul Swain on August 26. The meeting was requested in a letter to the minister, enclosing a copy of the newly-developed Forestry Transport Policy.

The policy stressed that any attempt to make rail more competitive with road by introducing subsidies, or restrictions on heavy vehicle road use, would inevitably cause serious distortion between transport modes.

For similar reasons, any protective measures for sea transport – which in some places is a viable option to road transport – must be ruled out.

The NZFIC and NZFOA told the minister they are keen to work with Government to review the whole issue of movement of forest products on the public transport network, and explore how to optimise all transport opportunities, including rail, to minimise costs and maximise benefits.

The two industry groups have also made detailed submissions on the Land Transport Management Bill.

The Bill, which promotes an integrated approach to all forms of land transport, including coastal barging, will be reported back in September. It also provides for public/private partnerships and the use of tolls for roading.

Forest products – from logs through to tissue and paper – account for 12.5 per cent of Tranzrail freight by revenue (\$50 m out of a total \$400 m last year) making them the single biggest commodity transported. 📍

# 22 metre loads taking off



22-metre loads (right) are much safer, but their potential has yet to be realised

More than 500 log trucks have been registered to carry 22-metre loads since 20 June 2002, when the Government gave the all-clear for this safer load configuration.

The maximum length for conventional loads remains at 20 metres. The maximum height, 3.8 metres.

The longer loads were permitted because they are lower and therefore more stable. As such, they were seen as an ideal way to reduce the log truck rollover rate, which had reached one a week.

Are they doing their job? yes," says Log Transport Safety Council (LTSC) secretary Bruce Nairn. "To date – touch wood – we haven't had a single roll-over from the double-packet loads."

But has their potential been realised? "No," Nairn says. "Some parts of the country, like Hawkes Bay, are excellent. But other parts have barely got off the ground.

"Potentially, about 40 per cent of the harvest could go on 22-metre trailers, but that requires a little extra work at the landing.

"Some regard an extra stack at the landing as a hassle. But it needs to be seen in its context of improving road safety. We're talking of lives saved. It's worth a little hassle."

A sticking point that influences some operators is the requirement for 22-metre loads to display yellow flashing lights at night, because the load is longer than the statutory standard of 20 metres.

"The LTSC would like to see this requirement dropped," he says. "The loads are no wider than usual and most motorists don't have a problem with the extra length – but the lights are a major annoyance for drivers." 📍

## Saving street trees

The trees that line city streets and shade urban gardens will be the first to succumb to pests like the gypsy moth, and amenity plantings on lifestyle blocks are likely to suffer too, MAF's Peter Thomson says.

He says more work is needed to emphasise that pest eradication programmes, such as

for the painted apple moth, are not just for the protection of a distant plantation forest.

A protest petition has been launched against gypsy moth spraying in Hamilton, ahead of any decision whether or not to spray. However, a MAF survey shows that the majority of citizens recognise that spraying is essential. 📍

# Centre promotes new career options

High-flying school-leavers have a tempting new career choice. They can become foundation students for the new degree in Wood & Composites Engineering, the first such tertiary course in wood manufacturing.

The degree is one of two new 'learning products' developed at the National Centre of Excellence in Wood Processing and Education (soon to be known as the RADI Centre).

Also beginning in 2004 will be the Diploma in Wood Manufacturing, leading on to the Advanced Diploma in Wood Manufacturing.

The diplomas, encompassing technical and management topics, and advanced study of wood, are aimed at mature students with industry experience.

The four-year degree should particularly appeal to rural students, with high marks in maths and science, programme director Dr Jeff Weber says.

"It offers an exciting career path, and study will be structured so they can keep up their local links."

Minister of economic development, Jim Anderton, who visited the centre in July, said it will be a major investment in the forestry and wood processing industries, particularly

by assisting skills shortages and undertaking and co-ordinating research.

"Our plantation wood volumes will double over the next 20 years, and New Zealand needs to have the skills in place to get the highest value from our forestry assets," the minister said.



Jim Anderton says skilled people are needed to get the highest value from our forestry assets.

New Zealand Trade and Enterprise has provided \$1.8 million over three years to establish the centre, which is a joint initiative by Forest Industries Training, the University of Auckland, and Waiariki Institute of Technology in Rotorua, which will host the diploma courses.

With the degree course, which will be based in Auckland, students will have to complete work-study placements that will regularly get them out into mills and wood production plants.

The last nine months have seen extensive preparatory work, including signing up "top quality lecturers".

Industry representatives have been closely involved, and Jeff Weber says he hopes they will back it when it is a reality.

"We'll be out there promoting it nationwide, talking to school guidance counsellors, visiting companies, to the students themselves. Everyone can help promote it by pointing out what a great future there is in forestry, especially if you look beyond commodity wood," Jeff Weber said.

More detail on the courses will soon be on the website [www.radi.org.nz](http://www.radi.org.nz). Or contact Jeff Weber phone 07 348 7250 or [jeff.weber@radi.org.nz](mailto:jeff.weber@radi.org.nz)

## Getting the career message across

Research being commissioned by Forest Industry Training (FIT) will help the industry fine-tune its approach to recruitment for the future.

It will take an objective look at how potential employees, and their parents and teachers, perceive forestry as a career. The information will be used to develop next year's recruitment campaign.

It's a buyers' market for the brightest of today's school leavers. But FIT's current recruitment package, supported by Trade and Enterprise New Zealand, is already making quite an impact.

Forestry career options got a good response at one of the country's biggest school-leaver

career shows, even though it was held in the heart of Auckland.

Recruitment officer Hamish Gunn's presentation was outstanding in the way it grabbed the interest of the passing teenagers, says John Blakey of FIT. "We're getting some CDs made so others can use it as well."


Gunn is a full-time recruitment officer who works mainly with schools on a variety of activities. Among the most popular are day-long field trips to forests and mills.

FIT has display boards and other material for anyone who would like to be involved in recruiting, as well as copies of *Futures* magazine which is aimed at teenagers.

The strategy includes an interactive website

which encourages students to see where different entry choices will take them up the career ladder.

"We emphasise there are a lot of opportunities over the life of a forest, and it's an international industry where you may well find yourself working overseas at some stage," John Blakey said.

"To meet the industry's future targets, we have to keep moving all our people up the qualifications framework all the time, so it's essential that we can bring in some of the best. There's such a high level of technology development and change we have to keep upskilling or we won't keep pace with our main competitors." 

### Tane gets a voice

Many years hence, if Tane's Tree Trust (TTT) is successful, native timber may once again have an important place in the New Zealand forest industry.

The trust was launched in November last year. Its aim:

"To see the majority of New Zealand landowners successfully planting and sustainably managing indigenous trees for multiple uses by 2020."

Trustee and NZFOA President Peter Berg says, on the basis of modern economic theory, you would not consider planting indigenous trees with a view to harvesting them in 100 years time.

"But there are other values, such as biodiversity, water quality and landscape which are important. People buying property are also willing to pay more for properties which have been planted with indigenous species and are in balance with nature."

From the perspective of corporate forestry, the active management of indigenous vegetation – such as in riparian strips – will be a requirement of the national standards for plantation forestry.

Priorities for the trust are research and the sharing of knowledge about indigenous tree management.

For more information, contact TTT president Ian Barton, Tel 09 292 4825. Email [ian@tanestrees.org.nz](mailto:ian@tanestrees.org.nz)

### Wilding strategy needed

The biological control of wildling conifers, using seed-eating insects, does not have the support of the forest industry.

Biosecurity consultant Bill Dyck says the insects might spread the pine pitch canker fungus, *Fusarium circinatum*, should it arrive in New Zealand.

"The risk at this stage is too great," he says.

"Their control was robustly debated by some 80 delegates from research, Government, university and forest industry organisations at a workshop in early August in Christchurch," says Dyck.

"It was agreed to form an advisory committee to develop a national strategy."

Contorta is an aggressive coloniser of shrublands and tussock grasslands. It has no value in New Zealand as a timber species. 🌲

### Better wood



WQI chief executive Keith Mackie

The forestry research consortium, WQI Ltd, is expected to grow significantly in its first full year of operation.

Chief executive, Dr Keith Mackie, says the company has already signed up \$1.4 million in contracts.

It is now looking for proposals from research providers for a second round of contracts (see [www.wqi.co.nz](http://www.wqi.co.nz)).

WQI was incorporated in February as an industry-Government partnership with 14 New Zealand and Australian forest companies and research providers as shareholders.

Since Dr Mackie's appointment in May, two more key companies have joined and other potential shareholders are knocking on the door.

A priority for WQI is to find better ways to measure and monitor wood quality.

NZFOA research committee chair Peter Clark says the ideal is to match each piece of timber with its potential end use. This would greatly reduce product variability and enable marketers to guarantee the suitability of a particular grade of timber for a specific end use. 🌲

### Trade talks vital

The NZ Forest Industries Council is spearheading an international effort by forest-growing countries to free-up world trade in wood and paper products.

The council so far has the support of the forest and paper products industries in Canada, New Zealand and the United States; the forest industry in Australia and the paper industry in South Africa.

Trade barriers are a major problem for countries which export wood products, wood pulp and paper.

NZFOA chief executive Stephen Jacobi says tariffs typically escalate as more value is added to products.

"This conflicts directly with our industry strategy which is to get away from the commodity log export business and to encourage investment in added value processing in New Zealand," he says.

"The opportunity cost is huge. A successful conclusion to the Doha round is vitally important to the industry and to New Zealand."

Mr Jacobi attended the ministerial session of the World Trade Organisation's Doha round of world trade talks in Cancun, Mexico, in September 2003 as a special adviser to the NZ delegation. 🌲

### Fingertip facts

*NZ Forest Industry Forestry Facts and Figures 2003-2004* will be published shortly. It gives a comprehensive update of facts about everything from ownership to exports, employment and woodflows.

The pocket-sized reference, produced by the forestry statistics unit of MAF in association with the NZFOA and NZFIC, is ideal for promoting up to date facts about forestry industry trends, targets and value to the economy.

NZFOA members will get a complimentary copy. Extra copies can be requested at a cost of \$5 each including gst, postage and packaging. Order online at [www.nzfoa.nzforestry.co.nz](http://www.nzfoa.nzforestry.co.nz) or Tel 04 473 4769. 🌲

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