

February 2012

### **Consultation with Forest Growers**

The Consultation Process has two related components:

- A. Consultation with current Forest Owner Association members, and;
- B. Consultation with Forest Owners who are not members.

Consultation with current members is relatively straightforward as we have contact details and can communicate directly.

Consultation with non-members entails utilising other organisations databases (such as the National Exotic Forest Description (NEFD)), public meetings, industry newsletters and magazines and newspapers. It is estimated that there may be 18,000 forest owners.

#### **A. Consultation Process with FOA Members**

The levy proposal has been discussed within the Executive for a number of years. At a management retreat in December 2010, the FOA executive was formally tasked with progressing a commodity levy to fund FOA activities. Subsequent Executive meetings in 2011 confirmed the basis for the levy (all logs produced from plantation forests). In addition to consultation, the Executive comprising representatives for a significant proportion of NZ's plantation forest area have had input to the basic structure and composition of the proposed levy.

Forest owners or their representatives on the executive consisted of:

P Berg:	FOA President – to October 2011	Berg Forests
B McCallum	FOA President – from October 2011	HNRG
P Nicholls	FOA Vice President – from October 2011	Matariki
P Clark		P F Olsen
D Balfour		KTL
P Weir		Ernslaw 1
L Seymour		Nelson Forests
C Schell		Crown Forestry
S Drummond		Juken New Zealand
B Pritchard		Pan Pac
S Wilton	Resigned October 2011	Forest Enterprises
G Dodson	Joined Exec October 2011	City Forests
G Asher		Lake Taupo Forest Trust

In addition, J Dermer, a Farm Forestry representative attends the Executive.

The Executive directly represents the owners or managers for approximately 1,100,000 ha of plantation forest. Total membership of over 230 members represents approximately 1,131,000 ha. Members have been informed of the commodity levy proposal via the FOA Bulletin and the FOA e-News.

## **B. Consultation Process with Plantation Forest Owners who may not be a current Forest Owner Association Member**

In addition to consultation with FOA members (FOA Bulletin, FOA e-News and via the Executive), a wide range of mechanisms will be used to consult and inform all NZ plantation forest owners before a referendum is held.

Over one-third (662,000 ha) of the plantation estate is owned in amounts of less than 10,000 ha. Many of these owners are not members of FOA, although a significant amount is managed by forest managers that are on the FOA Executive – the actual forest owner, however, may or may not be a member of FOA.

A significant number of small forest owners are members of the Farm Forestry Association, which has over 2,000 members representing approximately 100,000 ha of plantation forest.

There are, however, a substantial number of forest owners which are neither FOA or FFA members. Many farmers with woodlots consider themselves farmers, not farm foresters or foresters so belong to neither organisation.

The most comprehensive database of forest and woodlot owners is maintained by the National Exotic Forest Description (NEFD) team. This database has been compiled on the basis that it is to be used exclusively for the capture of NEFD data. The team contacted those on its database, asking if information on the compulsory levy could be forwarded.

## **Associations**

The following associations have been, and will continue to be contacted and asked to forward information to their members:

- South Wood Council
- Northland Wood Council
- Eastland Wood Council
- NZ Farm Forestry Association (FFA)
- New Zealand Institute of Forestry (NZIF)
- Forest Industry Contractors Association (FICA)
- Wood Processors Association (WPA)
- Timber Industry Federation (TIF)
- Pine Manufacturers Association (PMA)



## **Regional Meetings**

Grower consultation meetings were held mid February throughout New Zealand. They have provided excellent feedback which is being incorporated into the levy proposal.

## **Media Releases**

A series of media releases have and will continue to be distributed to regional newspapers, industry newsletters and magazines. These include the following industry publications:

- FOA Bulletin
- FOA e-News
- Friday Offcuts
- Woodweek
- Wood Matters
- Timber and Forestry e-News
- NZIF Weekly e-Newsletter

## **Public Notices**

Public notices advertising any further public meetings and ballot deadline will be published as required.

