



Environmental code 'the gold standard'

THE NZ FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION HAS DEVELOPED A CODE OF PRACTICE DESIGNED TO ENSURE THAT ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES ARE PROTECTED DURING THE LIFE CYCLE OF A FOREST CROP, FROM PLANTING TO HARVEST.

The code, which will be rolled out at regional meetings in August, is a detailed practical guide to forest operations, and includes a section setting out industry Best Environmental Practices (BEPs).

It covers everything from how to protect waterways through to what to do if historical sites or artifacts are found during forest operations. Agrichemical and fertiliser application, burn-offs, harvesting, waterway crossings, earthworks, sediment control, the protection of endangered native species and the management of fuel, oil, wastes and slash are all covered.

"Environmental standards across the industry are already very high. But with large areas of new forests reaching maturity in the next few years, there is a need for a code that will be seen as the gold standard by everyone in the industry," says NZFOA president Peter Berg.

"Most large forest owners are expected to review their Environmental Management Systems (EMS) to ensure that they are aligned with the new code.



Taking water quality samples from a plantation stream

The new code is based on industry experience and scientific research into the practices – such as the width of riparian margins – which best protect environmental values

Forest owners who do not have an EMS are expected to adopt the code as the means for achieving a high standard of management in their forestry operations.

"This will make it easier for contractors and others, who will know what is expected of them, regardless of who owns the forest they are working in."

The new code completely replaces an earlier code first published in 1990 and revised in 1993. This earlier code was the first of its kind for any land-based industry in New Zealand, but after 10 years the industry had left it behind.

Forest managers, backed by scientific research, had become much more knowledgeable about the environmental values in plantation forests and how to protect them. Three years ago, the decision was made that a full rewrite was needed.

The task has been project managed by Kit Richards, with major input from members of the NZFOA environmental committee. NZFOA members were asked to give their feedback on successive drafts – providing input which Berg says was invaluable.

"The code is a distillation of the knowledge of the industry and reflects

the experience and expertise of forest owners large and small," he says.

"In effect it is a tool kit which describes the range of management options which are known to work in different situations. It is up to the forest manager or operator to consider all the relevant factors and select the tools that are best suited for use on a given site.

"By using the code in conjunction with relevant legislation and technical information, forest owners and managers can achieve their commercial goals and at the same time achieve sound and practical environmental standards."

Inevitably, as the new code is put into practice and environmental techniques are refined, forest owners will come forward with suggestions for further improvements. These are welcome. The NZFOA is committed to keeping the content regularly updated.

A copy of the final printer's draft of the code has been posted to all NZFOA members, so they are familiar with the content before the roll-out. The printed version of the code – which comes in two versions, as an A5 field guide printed on water-resistant plasticised paper and a complete A4 document – will be available at the meetings.

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Giving substance to our clean-green performance



By NZFOA
executive director
David Rhodes

THE NZ ENVIRONMENTAL CODE OF PRACTICE FOR PLANTATION FORESTRY WILL BE PUBLISHED IN EARLY-AUGUST. THE TIMING COULDN'T BE MUCH BETTER.

Later in the month, the wider forestry and wood products industry will also roll out NZ Wood, a campaign designed to raise the profile and reputation of forestry as an environmentally friendly land use and wood as a preferred construction material.

Because the code will be part of the story which gives substance to the industry's claim to be environmentally responsible, the code and NZ Wood will be launched at joint functions around the country from 13-31 August.

The forest industry has had an environmental code since 1990. But the new code goes well beyond the original, providing much new and more detailed information.

Awareness of, and commitment to, the code should be the goal of all members of NZFOA. It provides a range of options for ensuring best environmental outcomes and can be expected to apply to most situations confronting forest managers.

It is accepted there will be circumstances where, in order to achieve good

forest management, members may need to use an approach which is not defined in the code. But our board is confident that members, their staff and contractors, will apply the principles upon which the code is based.

One reason for the success of forestry in New Zealand has been its ability to meet the country's wood fibre needs while operating in a manner which met wider expectations in terms of environmental and social performance.

Over time these expectations have grown. The forest industry has recognised and responded to these trends, with its commitment to the 1990 Forest Accord, its strict (and highly successful) Health & Safety Codes, and the efforts to develop third party certification which is reflected in the increasing area of forest certified.

The 2007 Environmental Code of Practice for Plantation Forestry provides the 'how' for forest owners, staff and contractors in their efforts to achieve best practice when carrying out forest operations. It is a technical manual written by environmental managers for operations managers and therefore it has not involved the community consultation that is appropriate when defining environmental principles and policies.

Nevertheless we hope environmental groups, regional councils and government will recognise the integrity of the

code and the huge commitment and effort that has gone into its development. In our view, the code shows that as forest owners we mean what we say when it comes to environmental management.

The code helps reinforce the fact that wood is the most environmentally friendly of all building materials – especially during the production phase of its lifecycle. Not only do trees hold hillsides together, protect water supplies, enhance biodiversity, reduce nitrogen leaching and sequester carbon, the land management systems used by forest owners lead world's best practice.

These environmental attributes are some of the great strengths of wood as a building material. But the public's understanding of this and their market support for wood products cannot be taken for granted.

Hence the imminent launch of the NZ Wood market development programme. This aims to address the weak public standing of an industry which has so much to offer.

It's an issue which plantation forest owners are grappling with world-wide – and one which many are addressing in a similar way, with major marketing promotions in Australia, Canada and elsewhere.

NB: NZ Wood was formerly known by the working name ForWood.

NZFOA

Forest owners stay voluntary

THE NZ FOREST OWNERS AND FARM FORESTRY ASSOCIATIONS HAVE DECIDED NOT TO SEEK A COMPULSORY LEVY TO FUND INDUSTRY-GOOD ACTIVITIES.

"More than 85% of plantation forest owners (by plantation area) belong to one of our associations and the vast majority of them help fund all our major projects," says NZFOA president Peter Berg.

"Our decision may have been different if our support was only 70%. But there is strong belief that voluntary is best; that we have greater strength if

our decisions are based on consensus rather than a statutory mandate."

Other barriers to the adoption of a compulsory levy are the ownership structure of the forest industry, and its long-term nature. Finding a voting and funding formula which was fair to the large corporates, as well as to the owners of small privately-owned forests, was always going to be a challenge.

Almost certainly this would have required two compulsory levies, one based on harvest and the other based on area. Collection of the former would have fallen to the country's many log buyers – none of whom have any experience of collecting and accounting for a levy.

In theory, the biggest challenge the NZFOA will now face is meeting its obligations on contracts and agreements which require 3- to 5-year commitments, when its members' commitments to the association are renewed annually.

Berg is confident that this won't be a problem.

"There's a big difference between having the right to opt out of an organisation, or to stop funding its activities, and actually exercising that right.

"The NZFOA has been around as a voluntary organisation since 1926. We have a track record of honouring our commitments – that won't change."



Green light for Future Forests

THE NZ FOREST INDUSTRY HAS SIGNIFICANTLY CHANGED THE WAY IT FUNDS AND ORGANISES FOREST GROWING RESEARCH.

A new company, Future Forests Research Ltd (FFR), has been established to co-ordinate industry-good research and to provide Scion/Ensis – as the industry's primary research provider – with continuity in its base funding and research programmes.

Project manager Russell Dale has a 1 October 2007 deadline for setting up the new entity, including the appointment of a chief executive and research theme leaders.

NZFOA Research Committee chair Peter Clark says the new set-up replaces the current model of five joint Scion-industry research co-operatives, which has been in place since the early-1980s.

"Forest owners needed to be more involved in setting research priorities, to ensure they were relevant and to give them more 'ownership'," he says.

"Improved governance and co-ordination across research themes was needed, along with a more robust mechanism for ensuring extension and uptake of research findings.

"For its part, Scion needed to have assured base-line funding in its major areas of activity and expertise, so it could develop and retain the world-class research capability needed by the industry."

Forest owners have committed themselves to providing more than \$1 million of support to the proposed research programmes each year. These programmes also attract (or are expected to attract) public-good funding from the Foundation of Research Science and Technology (FRST) of around \$4 million a year.

The FFR board includes representatives from Scion and Ensis, and elected representatives of forest owners. Clark says it will provide a clear strategic direction for R&D that will assist the industry to stay ahead of the competition.

Members of the inaugural board are Clive Carlyle (Ensis), Steve Couper (Ernslaw One), Charles Etherington (Warren Forestry Ltd), Peter Keach (P F Olsen Ltd), Bruce Manley (School of Forestry), Phil Taylor (Blakely-Pacific Ltd) and Tom Richardson (Scion). Taylor has been elected chairman.

Representatives from the existing research cooperatives are planning to move their programmes into FFR from 1 October.

Research programmes in radiata management, diversified species, environmental management and social issues will be absorbed and expanded in the new venture. Harvesting logistics research, which lapsed for almost a decade, will be reactivated.

Scion chief executive Tom Richardson says that for forestry to remain competitive globally, innovation is essential to develop more efficient production methods and new products.

"Research on forests will not only improve the economics and international competitiveness of forestry and related sectors, it will also help address many of New Zealand's environmental goals such as clean water, land stability, carbon sequestration and biodiversity," he says.

"The development of FFR will give research providers the direction and stability to provide the industry, and New Zealand, with the innovation it needs."

Condition monitoring closer

AN NZFOA PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A FOREST CONDITION MONITORING (FCM) SYSTEM HAS BEEN APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE FOR FUNDING BY THE SUSTAINABLE FARMING FUND.

"It's a big step forward. With the system in place, forest owners will have a scientific basis for making marketing claims that their forests are sustainable. Significant changes in forest condition – such as a result of fungal diseases – will also be detected over time so that remedial actions can get underway," says NZFOA forest health chairman Ian Jolly.

From a regulatory point of view, an FCM system will provide assurances to local government that forestry practices are "safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil and ecosystems" as defined by the Resource Management Act. It will also allow the government to monitor carbon absorption under the Kyoto Protocol.

A few issues still need to be resolved before the system suits all parties, but Jolly believes "there is little point in more than one organisation monitoring forest condition for similar objectives".

He says the project team will involve researchers from Ensis and other CRLs, as well as private consultants. They will work closely with government agencies charged with forest monitoring to meet government obligations under the Montreal Process and Kyoto Protocol.

It will take three years to fully design the system and get it operational, by which time forest owners hope they and the government will have settled their impasse over Kyoto policy.

In that time, the team plans to integrate crown transparency monitoring (as an indicator of forest health and nutritional status) with the existing Permanent Sample Plot (PSP) system that monitors stand production. The health status and condition of the tree and soil will be assessed annually and related to crown transparency and productivity, with the aim of producing a meaningful indicator of national and regional forest condition.



Harvesting logistics research will resume after lapsing for almost a decade



Centralised fire plan unwelcome



Our rural firefighting system is seen overseas as a model for cost-efficiency and accountability. But it's being replaced with a centralised model, which will reduce local accountability and probably cost more

A GOVERNMENT PLAN TO PHASE OUT REGIONAL RURAL FIRE AUTHORITIES (RFAs) IN FAVOUR OF A CENTRALISED FIRE CONTROL AGENCY IS LIKELY TO RESULT IN A LOSS OF RURAL FIRE-FIGHTING CAPACITY AND A BIG INCREASE IN COSTS TO LAND-USERS.

In April, internal affairs minister Rick Barker announced plans for a new Fire & Rescue Service (FRS). It will be responsible for urban and rural fire prevention and control nation-wide.

Existing Rural Fire Authorities (RFAs) will be able to keep operating if they wish, but no funding will be provided for them. The Department of Conservation will be prevented from participating in RFAs.

NZFOA fire committee chairman Kerry Ellem says some minor legal changes were needed to bring fire management into the 21st century.

"But these changes did not justify a complete rewrite of legislation and the centralisation of all fire management," he says.

"Our decentralised system is seen overseas as a model for cost-efficiency and accountability. That's not surprising – since 1990 there has been a 50% reduction in the area damaged by rural fires each year."

New Zealand's rural fire services are organised regionally and involve a high level of co-ordination between land-users and other stakeholders. At a national level, the Rural Fire Authority is responsible for setting standards and auditing compliance.

The system encourages co-operation among local authorities, forest owners, farmers and the Department of Conservation and ensures a seamless response when fires occur.

These stakeholders provide most of the manpower used to control rural fires, using many skills which are a normal part of their working life such as driving 4WD vehicles, and operating bulldozers and chainsaws. Their crews also have the work-hardened stamina and fitness which goes with working on the land.

Under the Barker plan, they will largely be replaced by professional and volunteer firefighters, whose main focus is urban fire prevention and control.

"At present, land managers share regional accountability for rural fire prevention, management and control. Under the Barker Plan, this responsibility will shift to a national body," says Ellem.

"Local bodies will also be able to shed their fire responsibilities – and associated costs – to the proposed FRS. No doubt many of them will find this tempting.

"This will mean a loss of expertise, as trained council staff, who often split their time between fire and other duties, are redeployed."

A major concern for forest owners is the proposal to remove DoC's involvement with RFAs and its access to the Rural Fire Fighting Fund.

The ownership of the land on which a wildfire occurs is not necessarily established at the time of an outbreak. The fund enables Rural Fire Authorities to respond, irrespective of the ownership of the land, knowing their costs will be reimbursed.

Until the fund was established in 1990, DoC was sometimes unable to make timely payment for the control of the occasional large or catastrophic fire on their land. If there is uncertainty about DoC's responsibility and willingness to reimburse costs, wildfires which occur near DoC boundaries may be left to burn until it is established who is accountable for costs.

The submission period for the proposed fire legislation closed on 30 June. To see the NZFOA submission, go to www.nzfoa.org.nz

Voices on the wires again

FORESTOWNERS AND OTHER LANDUSERS ARE ABOUT TO RESUME DISCUSSIONS WITH TRANSPower ABOUT A TEMPLATE EASEMENT AGREEMENT FOR POWERLINES PASSING OVER PRIVATE LAND.

Negotiations between the Landowners Forum, led on this topic by the NZFOA, and Transpower have occurred in fits and starts for more than a decade.

Although the two sides came close to agreement three years ago, there was a major sticking point – the understandable reluctance of land owners to accept an open-ended liability for any disruption to power supply caused by a mishap on their land, such as a falling tree or fire. Clarification of liability will have a bearing on allocation of land maintenance and other costs where lines cross forests.

A closely related concern was to compensate land owners whenever the power capacity of an existing line is increased, as this further increases the land owner's common law liability if an outage occurs.

NZFOA chief executive David Rhodes says the government would like to see the issue resolved through negotiation.

"Energy minister David Parker has met with us and has expressed some sympathy for our position," he says.

"Ultimately, what we are looking for is an agreement or legislative change which ensures that the full costs of electricity line installation and maintenance are met by the beneficiaries of that line, be they the line owner or the customer."

In a letter to the forum, chief executive Ralph Craven says Transpower has developed a new access agreement and is willing to discuss this. He also says the company is not requiring land owners to accept unlimited liability for outages.

A meeting between the two parties is expected to be held this month.



Is an agreement on liability any closer?

Commercial buildings targeted by NZ Wood

SEVENTY FIVE PER CENT OF NEW ZEALAND CONSUMERS SAY THAT IF THEY KNEW TIMBER CAME FROM A SUSTAINABLY MANAGED PLANTATION FOREST, THEY WOULD BE MORE LIKELY TO USE IT IN A BUILDING PROJECT.

This survey response, as well as the high overall public acceptance of the environmental benefits of forestry, means the main promotional thrust of the NZ Wood campaign will be based on the environmental attributes of wood.

The promotion, which is funded by forest owners, wood processors and the government through its Forest Industry Development Initiative, has completed its consumer research phase, with detailed strategic development now underway. It will be rolled out to key stakeholders and influencers during the next 12 months, before going public with mass media advertising.

NZFOA chief executive David Rhodes says the Association is very pleased with the promotional direction, as its main concern is to see forestry promoted for the benefits it offers to the wider community.

“Although 82% of the public sees forestry as sustainable and 70% see it as a normal part of the landscape, only 16% see forestry as a growth industry, versus 40% for construction and 51% for tourism,” he says.

“Forestry needs to be seen positively in all respects, as this influences our ability to attract staff and investment. It also is reflected in the way we are treated by regulators, suppliers and other industries.”

Although advertising will play a big part in the NZ Wood campaign, it is a strategic exercise designed to build long-term demand for wood, and to increase public understanding of the benefits of plantation forests. This means it must be based on sound research, capable of withstanding attacks from competitors like concrete and steel.

“We expect them to be ‘green-washing’ their operations, highlighting aspects of their product lifecycles which show them in a good light. We are confident, however, they can’t compete when it comes to production of their raw material – forestry is the environmental winner in so many ways,” Rhodes says.



Wood technologies are well-established here. The challenge – and the big opportunity – is to develop timber design technologies for building long-span multi-storey buildings

Because wood has a good share of the domestic framing market, one of the biggest opportunities for growing demand is in the commercial/industrial sector where its market share is small. It’s also a huge challenge.

While wood building technologies are well-established for two- or three-storey short span buildings, there are no such systems for building long span multi-storey buildings. To this end, Andy Buchanan, timber design professor at the University of Canterbury, is working with BRANZ to develop appropriate technologies.

The domestic residential and commercial building markets are worth more than \$10 billion a year. By solving technical barriers to the greater adoption of wood, and actively promoting its use as a ‘green’ construction material, there is a potential to greatly increase the size of the domestic market for wood.

“This will provide forest owners with more selling options and will make the industry less dependent on fickle and volatile export markets,” Rhodes says.

Government input vital

FORESTRY MINISTER JIM ANDERTON HAS ANNOUNCED THAT ALL FUTURE DESIGNS FOR GOVERNMENT-FUNDED BUILDINGS UP TO FOUR STOREYS WILL HAVE TO INCLUDE A CONSTRUCTION OPTION BASED ON TIMBER.

NZFOA chief executive David Rhodes says there are enormous opportunities for increased use of timber as a structural and finishing material in innovative and prestigious structures, ranging from schools to large commercial and recreational buildings.

He says the greater use of wood in construction is a major industry goal that will be promoted during the NZ Wood campaign. Pioneering work by Canterbury University professor Andy Buchanan that helps underpin this will now be enhanced by the establishment of a new professorship at Auckland University, also announced by Jim Anderton.

Rhodes says the government has a vital role to play in building public awareness of the merits of wood as a construction material.

“We hope the greater use of timber in government buildings will help create an upturn in interest in timber in the domestic and commercial sectors where it has been losing market share in recent years.”



Don't trip over that Safety Code!

Paperwork may be hindering our efforts to create a safer workplace

THE SUCCESS OF THE FOREST INDUSTRY IN REDUCING WORKPLACE ACCIDENTS AND FATALITIES HAS BEEN USED BY OTHER INDUSTRIES AS AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT CAN BE ACHIEVED.

But each year, some forest workers suffer injuries or fatalities as a result of human errors which in theory at least could have been prevented. Also the downward accident trend appears to have bottomed out (see graph).

At its June meeting, the NZFOA health & safety committee agreed to work with the Department of Labour to review forest health & safety strategies, to see whether things can be done better.

"After 25 years of legislation and industry safety codes, there's a belief that we've managed to complicate things, especially for our contractor workforce. When problems have emerged, we've fixed them with more policies and rules, to the point where many of us have safety manuals which are so thick that no-one reads them," says committee spokesman Nic Steens.

"Rules don't necessarily mean lower accident or fatality rates. Indeed, there

is overseas research to show that some rules can actually make things worse."

The review aims to identify those practices which work well. A simplified code will then be developed which will become an industry standard. Rules which are "nice to have", but which don't result in clear benefits, will be dropped.

Contractors will be deeply involved in the review, says Steens.

"In their opinion safety has become associated with reading manuals and form-filling, to the extent that real practical safety stuff is being neglected."

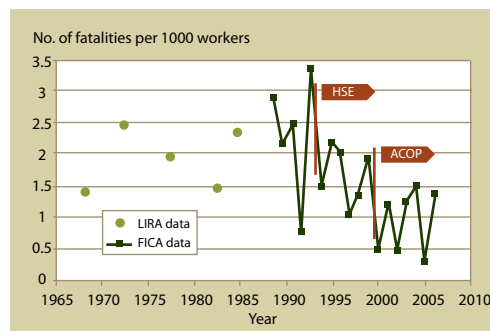
Time spent on unnecessary paperwork also reduces industry productivity and for contractors paid on piece rates

may contribute to some accidents.

The development of a simplified health & safety standard for the industry will help to ensure consistent enforcement.

"While we want to emphasise the positives, there are always a few bad performers in every industry and it is very important that these people are identified and brought up to standard," says Steens.

"Health and safety is of vital importance – forestry can take pride in what it has achieved to date. But we can always do better. Our goal has to be zero fatalities and zero major injuries."



It's time to take a stock-take of existing practices, to see if things can be done better

HSE: Introduction of the Health & Safety in Employment Act ACOP: Introduction of OSH-approved codes of practice

PEST CONTROL

Agrichemical dilemmas

LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL OPPOSITION TO THE USE OF SOME AGRICHEMICALS IS A MAJOR CONCERN TO FOREST OWNERS, WHO WANT TO PROTECT THEIR FORESTS FROM PESTS AND TO ENHANCE BIODIVERSITY.

"Strong opposition to the use of aerial 1080 has been reflected in street protests in Coromandel township. There is also concern about its use among environmental interests represented on the international Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)," says Colin Maunder, a member of the NZFOA environmental committee.

While 1080 is principally used to control possums, predators like stoats and rats are killed at the same time. Also, aerial application of 1080 is much cheaper than ground-based methods

using alternative chemicals.

"The irony is that the latest and safest alternative to 1080 – a new gel formulation of cholecalciferol – won't kill stoats. Our trees will be protected, but kiwi and other native wildlife will suffer from stoat predation."

Maunder says this a real dilemma for the owners of the 50% of NZ forests which are FSC-certified. On the one hand, the FSC derogations which allow them to use 1080 also require them to actively seek safer alternatives. On the other, FSC accreditation requires them to actively promote indigenous biodiversity.

Meanwhile the FSC is reviewing its policies which allow derogations for the use of certain agrichemicals.

"No-one likes using agrichemicals," says Maunder, "but, if we do need to use them, the right product for the job needs to be selected dispassionately. At

present, a strong lobby in the FSC sees certain herbicides and vertebrate poisons as inherently bad.

"In most cases, this is not true. It's how you use a compound that counts. Relatively innocuous substances can be dangerous if used to excess; quite toxic products can be used safely if they are applied appropriately and the dose rate is very low.

He says the best hope for the future is for the FSC to require certified forest owners to make their pesticide use decisions using a formalised decision support system. Blanket bans on essential agrichemicals won't work.



The only good possum is a dead one. The same goes for mustelids and rats

Nectria findings surprise

Infection found in both pruned and unpruned trees

ENSIS RESEARCH DURING 2006 AND 2007 HAS CONFIRMED THAT THE BIOLOGY OF NECTRIA FUEKELIANA, A FUNGUS ASSOCIATED WITH FLUTE CANKER IN PINUS RADIATA IN THE SOUTH OF THE SOUTH ISLAND, IS MORE COMPLICATED THAN FIRST THOUGHT.

The disease, which reduces tree growth and devalues the timber because of stem fluting, had been thought to be primarily spread by nectria spores entering the tree via pruning wounds.

Researchers Matthew Power and Tod Ramsfield have reported that they detected the DNA of nectria in similar numbers of pruned and unpruned trees. This unexpected finding means that the fungus does not necessarily depend on pruning wounds to enter trees.

Power and Ramsfield took one wood core sample per tree from two categories of trees in three Otago forests: young trees which had recently received their first pruning and young trees in the same stand which had not been pruned.

The cores were taken directly above a branch stub on pruned trees or, in the case of the unpruned trees, as close to the whorl as possible. One year on

from the original collection, the subject trees have been visually inspected and all have been resampled. DNA of the fungus was detected in 41 of the 180 trees sampled in 2006 and 38 of the 180 trees sampled in 2007.

The results from the second year sampling showed the same trend as the first year; there was no significant difference between pruned and unpruned trees and the presence of nectria, based both on DNA results and culturing the fungus from the wood cores.

The results reassure forest owners that identification of nectria in the wood cores does not necessarily mean there will be an outbreak of disease in the affected forests. In 2006, most of the trees sampled showed no symptoms, such as fluting, associated with nectria infection.

No nectria fruiting bodies were observed on any of the sampled trees in 2006 and were observed on only one tree that had died during the time between the 2006 and 2007 sampling. In 2007, eight of the 180 trees sampled had the combination of small flutes and the presence of *N. fuckeliana* DNA.

A funding application has been submitted to allow the dissection of some of the nectria-positive pruned and unpruned trees in 2008 in order to investigate the mechanism by which the fungus entered the tree.

Some managers have been timing pruning to avoid perceived high-risk periods, or not pruning branches over a certain size, in order to reduce the risk of infection by nectria spores.

Although the study demonstrates that pruning wounds are not the only entry point for the pathogen, previous research has shown a relationship between time of pruning and fluting incidence. Power and Ramsfield say that given our current level of knowledge of disease epidemiology, best management practice is to avoid pruning during periods – usually in winter – which are conducive to infection.



A fluted stem
A classic symptom of active nectria infection

Acknowledgements

Peter Oliver of City Forests Ltd and Paul Greaves of Wenita Forest Products Ltd identified sites and allowed the researchers access to the forests. Funding was provided by the Forest Health Research Collaborative and Forest Biosecurity Research Council.

More?

Detection of *Nectria fuckeliana* in wood cores from pruned and un-pruned *Pinus radiata* www.fbr.org.nz/publications.htm



Tod Ramsfield (red cap) and Matthew Power
Core samples taken from Otago forests leave unanswered questions about how nectria enters a host tree



Distinctive red fruiting bodies on a nectria-infected tree



Streamlining the value chain

ENSIS AND INNOVATEK ARE FOCUSING ON VALUE CHAIN OPTIMISATION IN THEIR JOINT 2-YEARLY FORESTRY AND FOREST PRODUCTS CONFERENCE, BEING HELD IN BOTH AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR.



Latest equipment at work in a Finnish forest. Learn how European operators handle value chain optimisation

Value Chain Optimisation 2007 is a two-day conference running in Rotorua from 18-19 September 2007. Organiser Brent Apthorp says leading South American companies which have implemented optimisation tools will be participating.

The conference will profile innovative strategies and technologies that have been designed to improve planning, logistics and operations within the forestry and wood products supply chain.

More?

Brent Apthorp, Tel +3 470 1902, brent.apthorp@innovatek.co.nz or www.ensisjv.com/events

Approved petrol handler

FORESTRY WORKERS WHO ACHIEVE A UNIT STANDARD IN HAZARD AWARENESS AND REFUELLING WILL IN FUTURE BE GIVEN 'APPROVED HANDLER' STATUS ALLOWING THEM TO HANDLE 100 OR MORE LITRES OF PETROL IN A FOREST.

This follows discussions between the NZFOA and the Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA), which is toughening up the rules relating to the handling of fuels.

ERMA has offered to work with NZFOA/FITEC to update the hazard awareness and refuelling sections of the Chainsaw Use Best Practice Guideline to meet approved handler best practice.

"Given that petrol is rarely used in forestry in quantities exceeding 100 L, this is a satisfactory outcome," says the NZFOA's Wayne Dempster.

Pruning illegal migrants

THE FOREST INDUSTRY IS WORKING WITH MAF TO HELP DEVELOP POLICIES TO PREVENT WOOD FROM ILLEGALLY LOGGED FORESTS FROM BEING SOLD IN NEW ZEALAND.

The NZFOA is strongly opposed to illegal logging, says chief executive David Rhodes.

"It goes against everything we stand for in terms of environmental, economic and social sustainability. Wood from illegally logged forests competes unfairly with timber which is grown and harvested sustainably, and illegal logging reflects badly on forestry everywhere."

He says the government also has an important role to play in putting pressure on illegal loggers. Its initiatives, including a procurement policy which requires government departments to seek legally sourced timber and wood products including paper, are welcome.

MAF's Alison Watson has also proposed that government fund research into the practicality of requiring that all timber and wood products sold in New Zealand are accompanied by a supplier's declaration that they are derived from legally logged forests. The NZFOA supports the proposal. Also, the International Council of Forest and Paper Associations has developed a position paper on illegal logging which has been endorsed by the NZFOA.

Canterbury water plan challenge

THE FOREST INDUSTRY IS CHALLENGING THE ENVIRONMENT CANTEBURY (ECAN) NATURAL RESOURCES REGIONAL PLAN, WHICH WILL LIMIT FORESTRY TO 5-20 PER CENT OF LAND HOLDINGS IN SENSITIVE CATCHMENTS WITH LOW SUMMER RAINFALL.

The Selwyn Plantation Board Ltd (SPBL), Matariki Forests and Blakely Pacific, with the support of the NZFOA, have prepared expert submissions for public hearings in July.

"Our science tells us that changes in stream flow are not detectable below 20% and are minor below 30%. But, more importantly, the proposed new plan is unjust and against the principles of the Resource Management Act," says SPBL forester Hugh Stevenson.

"Land use in the headwaters will be regulated when the problem is excessive irrigation demand on the flats. Where is the incentive for irrigators to use water responsibly if the cost of

maintaining stream flows in the catchment falls on others?"

Getting other land users to accept RMA principles has proved to be an uphill struggle and not only with Ecan. Forest owners recently parted company with other land user groups over wording which was to be incorporated into the government's Water Plan of Action (WpoA).

NZFOA Environmental Committee chair Peter Weir says farmers and horticulturists will not agree that forest owners have a right to make use of the natural rainfall that falls on their land, because it conflicts with their wish to lock-in their existing irrigation rights.

Hill areas of many catchments on the east coast of the South Island are ideal for plantation forestry. Weir says the irony is that forest was the original cover on most of this country and -- if it is not converted to plantation forest -- will eventually revert to a mix of native and wildling forest, which will have the same effects on downstream water yields as a plantation.



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