



RPBC[®]
Radiata Pine Breeding Co Ltd
BREEDING QUALITY

C/o Horizon2
State Highway 30
RD 2 Whakatane
8 July 2004

Mr Rob McLagan
Chief Executive
NZ Forest Owners Assoc.
PO Box 1208
Wellington

TREE IMPROVEMENT CONSORTIUM

Dear Rob

Horizon2, the Radiata Pine Breeding Company, (RPBC), and Forest Research, (FR), combined were all unsuccessful with bids for Government funding for tree improvement research in 2003.

Largely as a consequence of this, a group comprising the RPBC, FR, CSIRO, Ensis and the School of Forestry is working towards the development of a Tree Improvement Consortium, (TIC). The TIC will contribute \$1 million towards a research programme and will seek matching funds from FRST.

The expected scope of the TIC will encompass:

- The development and dissemination of improved Radiata pine germplasm and related IP to shareholders
- The enhancement of the radiata pine breeding population such that the genetic material distributed to shareholders is of high quality, good health, produces wood that is 'fit for purpose' and adds value to the plantation estate.
- The enhancement of tree breeding skills and capability within existing research providers as well as the development of such new capabilities through the education and training of students at the School of Forestry and other institutions.

An additional goal of developing R&D in radiata pine applied genetics and biotechnology, aimed at improving value in the improved plant production and deployment stages, may also be developed.

A TIC Establishment Board has been recently formed that will oversee the formation of the TIC resulting in an efficient and successful new organisation.


It is the intention that the new consortium will be formed by late September and its financial viability determined by late October.

The TIC Establishment Board is optimistic that this potential development will be of considerable benefit to the forest industry. Its activities will complement those of the Wood Quality Initiative, and other research groups, as well as assisting in the attainment of broader industry research objectives and visions.

This letter is not only to inform you of the TIC Establishment Boards intentions but to also solicit any future support you, or your organisation, may be able to give to the initiative.

The TIC Establishment Board intends keeping you regularly advised of its progress and the eventual outcome of its quest.

Yours faithfully



Dave Lowry
For TIC Establishment Board