

Threats, innovation and control strategies

Forest Biosecurity Conference 2024



When : 12 pm Wednesday 28 Feb to 3:30 pm Thursday 29 Feb

Where : Distinction Rotorua Hotel and Conference Centre, 390 Fenton Street, Rotorua

Purpose of the conference

The 2024 Forest Biosecurity Conference will take a broad ranging look at emerging threats and issues, what's at stake, and canvas the science and innovation that is helping reduce risk or improve our state of readiness.



PROGRAMME – DAY 1: Wednesday 28 February – 12:00 to 5.30 pm
(6:00 - 9:00 pm social event and dinner)

Venue: Distinction Rotorua Hotel and Conference Centre

12 noon to 1:30pm Lunch (FBC and Joint Forum/Conference attendees all welcome)

1:30pm to 3:00pm **BNZ/FOA JOINT BIOSECURITY FORUM - all welcome.** See agenda (Page 6)
CHAIR – Mike Lawson, Team Manager Government Industry Agreements, Partnerships, Biosecurity New Zealand.
The BNZ / FOA joint biosecurity forum is an interactive session that aims to promote discussion and debate on forestry related issues across the biosecurity system. It is an opportunity for government and industry participants to share what they have been working on in the past 12 months, and to plan future collaborations.

3:00pm to 3:30pm – tea and coffee

3:30 to 3:45pm **FOREST BIOSECURITY CONFERENCE – WELCOME, HOUSEKEEPING**
Welcome – John Simmons, Chair Forest Biosecurity Committee
Housekeeping, health and safety, order of service (Brendan Gould FOA/FGLT)
Setting the scene and introduce the keynote speakers (John Simmons)

3:45 to 4:35pm **KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS - THE IMPORTANCE OF EFFECTIVE BIOSECURITY FOR PROTECTING OUR FORESTS**

3:45 – 4:10pm **The value of our plantation forests – a case for improved protection**
Elizabeth Heeg – Chief Executive Officer, New Zealand Forest Owners Association and the Forest Growers Levy Trust. (25 mins including questions).

4:10 – 4:35pm **Protecting our biological assets and their potential. How can the forestry sector play its role (TBC)**
Stuart Anderson (Deputy Director General – Biosecurity New Zealand). (25 mins including questions).

4:35 – 5:10pm **Out of the woods: Australian forest invasions past, present, and future.**
Dr Helen Nahrung, Senior Research Fellow, Forest Research Institute, University of the Sunshine Coast. (35 mins including questions).

5:10 to 5:30pm **PANEL DISCUSSION – HOW EFFECTIVE IS THE BIOSECURITY SYSTEM AT PROTECTING FOREST VALUES NOW, AND WHAT FOREST VALUES IS IT PROTECTING OR NOT.**
John Simmons, Elizabeth Heeg, Stuart Anderson, Dr Helen Nahrung, forest owner representative.

6:00 – 7:00pm **NETWORKING EVENT AND TECHNICAL DISPLAYS**
Network and learn over some drinks and nibbles (first two drinks are free, but you will need vouchers for these – see Brendan)

7:00 – 9:00pm **DINNER – DISTINCTION ROTORUA HOTEL**

PROGRAMME – DAY 2: Thursday 29 Feb – 8.00 am – 3.30 pm

Venue: Distinction Rotorua Hotel and Conference Centre

8:00 to 10:00am	SESSION 1: THREATS TO OUR FORESTS
	UPDATES
8:00 – 8:15am	New Zealand plantation forest industry biosecurity update – Brendan Gould (FOA/FGLT)
8:15 – 8:30am	Australian plantation forest industry biosecurity update – Paco Tovar (AUSFPA)
	THREATS
8:30 – 8:40am	Transforming forest pest and pathogen diagnostics to strengthen Australasian forest biosecurity – Conrad Trollip (NSW DPI)
8:40 – 8:50am	<i>Lecanosticta</i> pathogens - the new big threat? – Rebecca McDougal (Scion)
8:50 – 9:00am	<i>Phytophthora Ramorum</i> - disease on our doorstep? – Hazel Daniels (Scion)
9:00 – 9:10am	Forest Biosecurity Risk Evaluation Framework – Rebecca Turner (Scion)
9:10 – 9:20am	Native tree health - it can be a beech – Darryl Herron (Scion)
9:20 – 10:00am	PANEL DISCUSSION (all speakers) “What are our biggest threats and are we doing enough to prevent or mitigate these?”

10:00 to 10:30am – Morning Tea

10:30am to 12:15pm	SESSION 2: INNOVATION AND CONTROL
	INNOVATION
10:30 – 10:40am	New surveillance technologies – eDNA, AI etc – Steve Pawson (UC)
10:40 – 10:50am	New molecular diagnostic tools – Rebecca McDougal (Scion)
10:50 – 11:00am	Gene technology for resilient forests – Glen Thorlby (Scion)
	CONTROL
11:00 – 11:10am	Decision making for red needle cast control, climate change, and highlights on new research – Emily McLay (Scion)
11:10 – 11:20am	Dothistroma control and trends – Don Hammond (Hammond Resource Management)
11:20 – 11:30am	Protecting Aotearoa against aerial invaders – Jess Kerr (Scion)
11:30 – 11:45am	Plant Pass – Improving Nursery Biosecurity – Jacinta Harrop (Plant Pass)
11:45 – 12:15am	PANEL DISCUSSION (all speakers) “Are we on the right track? How do we implement the science and outputs?”

12:15 to 1:00pm – Lunch

1:00 to 3:00pm	SESSION 3: FOREST BIOSECURITY DESKTOP RESPONSE SCENARIO Facilitators – Andrew Sander, Vinni Pather, Mike Lawson (Biosecurity New Zealand)
	Scenario Purpose: To provide participants and observers with high level exposure and insights into how a response to a forest biosecurity threat might unfold, including governance and decision making (under Government Industry Agreements – GIA), response structure, operational deployment and resourcing, market access risk and nursery biosecurity.

3:00 to 3:30pm	CONFERENCE WRAP UP – John Simmons Summary of key learnings and actions to take forward
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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Dr Elizabeth Heeg

Chief Executive Officer of the NZ Forest Owners Association and Forest Growers Levy Trust



Elizabeth is the CE of the NZ Forest Owners Association and Forest Growers Levy Trust. She has a strong background in forest systems and the regulatory and policy frameworks supporting them, including climate, biodiversity and water policy. Elizabeth has worked for MPI, DoC and the QEII Trust. She is passionate about forestry's role in the bioeconomy and the potential for forests to provide social, environmental and economic benefits. A priority is to build partnerships across the forestry supply chain, to process more wood onshore, use more wood for building and get the highest value from our forests, and to work with researchers on bioenergy development. For Elizabeth, forests are vital in combating the climate crisis and to achieve a low emission future.

Stuart Anderson

Deputy Director-General Biosecurity New Zealand

Stuart has been with MPI since 2010 in roles including science, policy, disaster recovery, economic analysis, forestry, fisheries, and biosecurity.

He has led the Ministry's forestry regulatory and operational functions, fisheries management system, and the *Mycoplasma bovis* Programme (a world-first attempt to eradicate this cattle disease from any country).

Prior to joining MPI, Stuart worked at Scion (the New Zealand Forest Research Institute) and led the wildfire research programme.



Dr Helen Nahrung

Senior Research Fellow, Forest Research Institute, University of the Sunshine Coast



Helen is a forest entomologist specialising in pest management, biological control, insect-plant interactions, chemical ecology, and biosecurity. Her research focus is primarily in invasion biology of exotic forest pests in Australia, and Australian native insects that have become invasive overseas. She received an Advance Queensland Fellowship to study biological invasions in forestry (2019-22), undertook a Fulbright Scholarship at USDA Forest Service, West Virginia (2022), and recently secured funding from Forest and Wood Products Australia to improve pathway and risk modelling for forest pests. She is Deputy Chair of the Forest Health and Biosecurity Subcommittee of the Australian Forest Products Association, supervisor of several amazing HDR students, editorial board member for a number of journals, loves data, and cannot play the bassoon.

2024 Biosecurity New Zealand and Forest Owners Association Joint Biosecurity Forum

DATE: 28 February 2024

VENUE: Distinction Hotel, 390 Fenton Street, Rotorua

TIME: 1:30pm – 3:00pm.

TIME:	AGENDA ITEM:	SPEAKERS:
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INTRODUCTION:

1:30pm	1. Welcome by Chair - Session overview + scene setting	Mike Lawson Team Mgr Government Industry Agreement, Partnerships
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PRE-BORDER/BORDER:

1:35pm	2. Forestry Exports Update 12 min presentation + time for questions	Shane Olsen & Matt Robinson Plant Exports
1:50pm	3. What's happening with biosecurity treatments? 12 min presentation + time for questions	Ken Glassey Senior Adviser, Te Tira Āta Patu - Treatments Team

POST-BORDER:

2:05pm	4. Update from Plant Health & Environment Laboratory (PHEL): New Diagnostic Tools and Technologies for Forestry pests 12 min presentation + time for questions	Merje Toome Principal Scientist PHEL Laboratory
2:20pm	5. Te Uru Rākau New Zealand Forest Service – Forest threats in a Changing Climate 20 min presentation + time for questions	Ben Doherty + Others Specialist Adviser Forest Health
2:45pm	6. Government Industry Agreement (GIA) – Investing in Cross-Industry Relationships to Improve Forest Biosecurity 10 min presentation + time for questions	Mike Lawson & Vinni Pather GIA Partnership and Engagement team

WRAP-UP:

2:58pm	7. Meeting close by Chair (Questions?)	Mike Lawson
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CLOSE OF MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 3:00PM

