

FBRC Annual Report

– Foreword



The Forest Biosecurity Research Council (FBRC) has emerged as a constructive vehicle for helping to protect the forest resource in New Zealand from insect pests and diseases. An effective biosecurity system requires continual input of science knowledge to support risk assessments and key risk management decisions.

The FBRC is a partnership between forest owners, research providers and Biosecurity NZ (BNZ). This partnership aims to attract funding for forest biosecurity research, provide the governance to oversee expenditure of research funding raised by the Forest Owners' Association, and to drive strategic direction for biosecurity research programmes dedicated specifically to the interests of the industry.

This report summarises the FBRC research activities from 2004-05 year, with additional funding support from the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology (FRST). These projects represent the combined efforts of New Zealand's primary forest biosecurity specialists, working on applied problems for the benefit of forestry stakeholders.

Having now completed its second year of operation, the FBRC is enabling the delivery of solutions on high-impact biosecurity issues. In particular, significant resources have been committed to understanding the biology and management of *Nectria fuckeliana*, the fungus that is causing malformation of radiata pine stems in the South Island.

An important milestone for the FBRC over the past year was the completion of our collaboration agreement that defines how our partnership operates. Part of this process involved the formulation of an overall research strategy that ensures, for the first time, that funding is allocated to research priorities in a balanced way. The direct input of forest managers and

other industry people has made sure that the work programme delivers information that can be used in managing biosecurity risks, not only at the border, but also within the forest estate.

Another highlight of the past year was the formation of FRST-funded "Better Border Biosecurity" (or B³) Outcome Based Investment (OBI). This collaborative venture between major New Zealand research providers and other government agencies, aims to reduce the number of border incursions and establishments by pests that threaten our primary industries and natural ecosystems. The FBRC had significant input into the formation of this collaboration, and its subsequent funding by FRST. This example demonstrates the power of the FBRC to represent the interests of the industry on a range of fronts.

As we pause to reflect on the achievements of the FBRC, I wish to thank all of the people from within the industry who donate their time to supporting the partnership and to work closely with research providers. It is vital that we have these



knowledgeable people taking an active role in biosecurity matters on behalf of the whole industry.

I also acknowledge the contribution of Rob McLagan who retired this year from his position as CEO of the Forest Owners' Association. Rob was a key figure in the formation of the FBRC and his personal effort in marshalling the support of forest growers was a significant part of our early success.

While the FBRC is now well recognised as an effective body for biosecurity research, the future of the research programmes depends on continued government funding through FRST. This support is, in turn, dependent on adequate levels of co-funding supplied by the industry. I trust that this report will provide some insight into why this research is so vital to our future prosperity as one of New Zealand's largest and most promising industries.

Jeremy Fleming – Chair

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