



# New Zealanders help fight US forest fires



National Interagency Fire Center

Five New Zealand fire managers are helping fight the Biscuit fire in Oregon, USA. By 26 August the fire had covered more than 200,000 hectares and cost US\$108 million to fight

Within days of receiving a formal request from the National Interagency Fire Center in Idaho, USA, 54 Australia and New Zealand (ANZ) fire managers were sent to help fight one of the worst fires the USA has ever seen.

A change in USA legislation was required to protect foreign firefighters from lawsuits before the ANZ fire managers could travel to the United States.

The amendments were signed by President Bush on 2 August, and the ANZ contingent, including nine New Zealand fire managers, flew out on 8 August to help manage the Biscuit fire in South West Oregon – the biggest fire ever to burn there. When the ANZ contingent arrived, the fire had already destroyed 160,000 hectares, and was only 26 per cent contained.

The fire was burning in tall Douglas fir forest in steep country. More than 6,000 people were assigned to the fire, with 184 fire engines, 41 helicopters, and dozens of bulldozers.

National Rural Fire Officer, Murray Dudfield, says the New Zealand contingent is made up of five representatives from the forest industry, two Department of Conservation staff, and two from local government.

"We've established regular liaison with the New Zealand group, and information is being sent to their employers and family. We estimate the deployment will last six weeks," he says.

"The experience gained by those involved will have long term benefits to New Zealand."

He says all costs will be met by the USA Federal Wildland fire agencies.

For the latest information on the Biscuit fire, see [www.biscuitfire.com](http://www.biscuitfire.com)

## Energy from forest wastes

A new Scandinavian operation which is successfully turning wood waste into fuel could be a model for New Zealand, making a significant contribution to the country's renewable energy goals.

A study group of 10 industry and government representatives recently returned from Scandinavia where they discussed climate change, and visited a new operation for harvesting tree waste material in Finland.

"Wood waste, which is traditionally left on the forest floor, is now providing 10 per cent of the fuel supply for a huge boiler and electricity generation plant at Pietarsaari, Finland.

"It is the biggest and newest in the world,"

says Peter Sligh who represented a group of pulp and paper and wood panel companies on the tour.

"The plant generates 200 megawatts of electricity, with the residual heat energy being used in a large mill and for community heating.

"We believe a similar concept could work here, and it is likely a feasibility study will be undertaken. With limited options available for additional electricity generation, the

forest industry is looking more and more like part of the solution in terms of climate change and energy supply."

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# In my view

## Biosecurity a top priority

The recent increased national focus on biosecurity issues is very encouraging – but more needs to be done.

The forest industry and the country as a whole has a great deal at stake. We need to ensure exotic pests and diseases are kept out of the country and to ensure that if they do breach border controls, there are effective policies and systems in place to quickly identify and eradicate them.

The threats are not only of potential damage to our indigenous vegetation and plantation estate, but also, if an exotic pest or disease became established, it would pose serious risks for our market access. A serious incursion could also impact on the country's biodiversity and carbon sequestration capability.

With a \$14 billion plantation estate and \$3.6 billion export earnings a year, the stakes are simply too high for forest biosecurity not to be treated as a top priority issue.

The previous Minister for Forestry, Pete Hodgson, publicly acknowledged that biosecurity was one of the most serious threats facing the forest industry. The new Minister of Biosecurity, Jim Sutton, combines this portfolio with forestry. He is therefore well positioned to understand and act on the need for even tighter biosecurity border controls and adequate funding for surveillance and

eradication programmes.

The industry will also be pleased with the appointment of a new director of forest biosecurity, Peter Thomson, who has a detailed knowledge of the industry and the issues (see article, page 4).

### Health surveillance

Recently the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) prepared a comprehensive report on the various forest surveillance schemes run by the Forest Owners Association, MAF's Ports and Environs, DoC and Regional Councils. The report identified a number of gaps in coverage which need to be addressed to improve the level of early detection. Smaller woodlots were identified as being particularly at risk.

At the initiative of the Association, an early meeting of all interested parties will be convened to review the MAF report, identify the surveillance gaps, and to consider ways to provide total and effective coverage of the whole country.

The government's draft National Biosecurity Strategy is expected to be released for public consultation later this year. Notwithstanding the extensive public consultation which has

occurred to date, it is important that all interested parties closely examine and comment on the draft. It will probably be the last opportunity for some time to make sure that effective systems and adequate funding are put in place.

We also need to devote more attention and resources to related forest health issues.

### Painted apple moth

The painted apple moth infestation has been a wake-up call for everyone and has resulted in cabinet ministers, government officials and the industry seriously rethinking how incursions should be handled.

The government will soon be considering whether to continue with an eradication objective or to adopt a control approach. The industry is adamant that the only option is one of eradication.

For the government to decide otherwise will not only expose New Zealand's plantation and indigenous vegetation to severe risk, but it will send a very negative message to both local citizens and to overseas markets about New Zealand's level of commitment to keeping this country as free as possible of exotic pests and diseases. Let us hope that sound judgement and resolve prevail. 🇳🇿

## Politics

## Politicians hear the wind in the trees

No other primary or industrial sector has the potential to deliver such strong growth and contribute so much to the country's social, environmental and economic development as the forestry industry.

This was the theme of a pre-election briefing paper put together by the Forest Owners Association (FOA), the Forest Industries Council (FIC) and the Farm Forestry Association (FFA).

Delivered to all political parties at the beginning of the election campaign, the document has since been sent to all newly elected members of parliament.

The paper outlines the future vision for the industry, which is reliant on sensible government policies to help realise the industry's potential.

FOA chief executive Rob McLagan says: "The industry and government have developed a good working relationship through the Wood Processing Strategy, and we're keen

to develop that further. We've outlined a set of important policy initiatives that we think are absolutely necessary to ensure the infrastructure is in place to deliver the economic growth forestry has to offer."

The recommended policies focus on climate change; energy; research, science and technology; local government and RMA; transport; private property rights; international market development; and trade access.

*A full copy of the paper is available on [www.nzfic.nzforestry.co.nz](http://www.nzfic.nzforestry.co.nz)*

# Drivers appreciate stable loads

More than two-thirds of operators on the Log Transport Safety Council's (LTSC) database had applied for 22 metre logging truck permits in the first month of the rule coming into force.

LTSC secretary Bruce Nairn says the feedback from contractors had been extremely positive.

"People driving trucks with the longer, more stable loads for the first time have been

amazed at the difference. The performance of the vehicle has improved dramatically, and they really appreciate what's happened."

He says operating conditions for the new rule, which allows the load on double-bunk trailers

to be extended by two metres, have been sent to all operators on the LTSC database.

"We're also taking steps to ensure everyone understands their responsibilities of operating within the permit conditions at all times. It's important we get this right so the industry and the public get the benefits of having more stable vehicles on the road."

Nairn says the LTSC will be providing quarterly reports to the Land Transport Safety Authority (LTSA) on the accident rates.

"We expect the rate of rollovers to come down dramatically. If it doesn't, or if we operate outside the conditions laid down, the LTSA could remove the exemption for our industry to operate over 20 metres."

He says one of the operating conditions is to display the LTSC approved 0800 LOGTRUCK sign.

"Displaying the 0800 number is also compulsory under the Log Transport Safety Accord, so there's no excuse for not having it. Forest owners should only use operators who display the 0800 sign on their trucks." ■



Rotorua Haulage Limited

Trials showed lower, double packet trailer loads were 50 per cent more stable than shorter, single packet loads

## More drivers needed

The shortage of logging truck drivers is likely to get worse in the next five years as the number of trees ready for harvest is expected to double, says the Log Transport Safety Council (LTSC). To find a solution, the LTSC, Forest Owners Association (FOA) and the Road Transport Forum have engaged research companies to investigate recruitment and retention of truck drivers.

"We have a real issue with retention and supply of drivers, and the research will help us to find out why drivers come into our industry, what makes them stay, or why they leave," says LTSC secretary Bruce Nairn.

"Once we have that information, we can begin to look at some solutions."

He says the research is the first stage of a project that aims to find ways to boost the number of good quality entrants to the industry.

"We also want to improve job satisfaction to retain drivers, and increase the number of drivers who want to progress to management positions."

Two transport consultancies, Oliver Hatton

Ltd and Transport Engineering Research NZ Ltd, are carrying out the research, some of which involves telephone surveys.

FOA chief executive, Rob McLagan, says the information will be kept confidential and any analysis carried out for use in the project will not identify individuals or companies.

"We'd appreciate it if forest owners get a call, they assist with the survey."

Nairn says driver shortage is a problem across all industries, not just forestry.

"The forest industry recognised it as a problem, and so did the Road Transport Forum, so we've combined efforts to address it rather than duplicate what we were doing."

He says the first part of the research, which involves interviews with logging truck drivers and their partners, has been completed. Drivers from line haul, dairy, livestock and general freight will then be interviewed, before a final report completed by the end of October.

For further information contact Bruce Nairn, mobile 025 943 695, email [tgmservices@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tgmservices@xtra.co.nz) ■

## Accident rate coming down

Latest figures from the Log Transport Safety Council (LTSC) show the rate of highway log trailer rollovers has reduced by 75 per cent in the last five years.

In the year ending 30 June 1997, there were 2.4 highway log trailer rollovers per million kilometres, but by 30 June 2002, that number was down to 0.6.

"Logging trucks are also covering more ground than they were five years ago, so if you compare the incidence of rollovers to the total number of kilometres travelled, the reduction is even more significant," says LTSC secretary Bruce Nairn.

He says that while the Council is pleased with the latest figures, they want to see the number of rollovers reduced still further.

"What it shows is that the driver education initiatives and vehicle improvements we've put in place are having an impact, but we think the 22 metre logging trucks will have the most significant impact on reducing accident rates that we've seen yet." ■

# NZ's biosecurity under review

Work on the first draft of a New Zealand-wide Biosecurity Strategy is expected to be completed later this year. Once approved by Cabinet, the draft strategy will be released for a second round of public consultation.

The Biosecurity Strategy will apply to all New Zealand, across primary production (forestry, agriculture and horticulture), public health and indigenous terrestrial, marine and fresh-water environments.

"The scope of biosecurity has expanded from its traditional focus on protection of primary production and trade," says Biosecurity Council chair, Dr John Hellstrom.

"Our biosecurity systems are under pressure

from increasing travel and trade, and we need to ensure the level of biosecurity protection is in step with increased risks."

The Biosecurity Strategy project, which began 18 months ago, is being managed by the Biosecurity Council. The first draft was prepared in consultation with stakeholders by May 2002, but has since had extensive input from government agencies and an independent advisory group of stakeholders

established to advise the Council.

"The first draft was found to be an excellent description of the current system and its strengths and weaknesses, but needed more work on strategic options with supporting analysis. A steering group has been established by the Council to oversee this work, which is being done by a small working group of policy analysts," says Hellstrom.

The second round of public consultation is expected to be completed by the end of March 2003, and the strategy published by the end of June.

For further information, contact John Hellstrom, tel 04 470 2760, or email [john.hellstrom@biostrategy.govt.nz](mailto:john.hellstrom@biostrategy.govt.nz)

## Pest protection a priority

The Forest Owners Association (FOA) is adamant that the government must increase funding to eradicate the painted apple moth. It is confident eradication can be achieved if the funds are provided.

"If this full response is maintained, it's hopeful the programme will be as successful as operation Evergreen – the white spotted tussock moth programme," says FOA Forest Health Committee chair, Bill Studholme.

He says the painted apple moth incursion highlights the need for enhanced biosecurity.

"The isolation that worked to New Zealand's advantage from a biosecurity point of view is fast diminishing as more travel brings us closer to the rest of the world.

"Forest health and biosecurity are the most important issues facing the forest industry. The time scale of commercial plantation forestry, and indigenous vegetation developed under very isolated conditions, means that care of and vigilance towards forest health matters are fundamental to best practice forest management."

He says FOA continues to take a lead role in forest surveillance by encouraging inter-agency cooperation, training observers, and promoting discussion and awareness of forest health issues and risks between its members and in the wider environmental area. 📍

## Forestry expert appointed at MAF Biosecurity

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) has appointed former Carter Holt Harvey (CHH) senior manager, Peter Thomson, as director, forest biosecurity.

MAF Biosecurity group director, Dr Barry O'Neil, says Thomson's forestry expertise is welcomed.

"This and the added strength of his extensive managerial background will give our Forest Biosecurity team a real boost."

Thomson has worked in forestry for the past 13 years, most recently holding management roles at CHH in technology implementation, technical services and managing operations for forest fibre solutions.

"The last decade has been an exciting time to be in forestry with a lot of change occurring," says Thomson.

"We have a lot more challenges and opportunities coming, not the least of which will be protecting New Zealand's forests while facilitating international trade.

"I'm confident we can succeed in this area if we stay focussed, have good communication, and robust systems and standards."

While Thomson has extensive experience in forestry, he says biosecurity is not completely new to him.

He was responsible for forest health related operations and research within CHH, chaired the NZ Forest Health Research Collaborative and is a past member of the FOA Forest Health Committee. 📍



Peter Thomson

# War declared on Dothistroma

*Dothistroma pini*, a fungus that affects the health and growth of pine trees, is flourishing due to last year's wet, mild spring and summer, says the FOA Dothistroma Control Committee (DCC).

The fungus thrives in warm, moist conditions and attacks live needles from spring right through to autumn. Each summer, the committee coordinates a spray programme to control the disease, aerially-spraying affected forests throughout New Zealand with copper fungicide.

"The service is available to all forest owners, not just FOA members, because it's in everyone's interest to keep on top of this disease. If we treat one stand and the neighbouring forest isn't treated, obviously there's a risk of re-infection," says DCC secretary, Don Hammond.

He says the DCC, which is a non-profit committee, is able to purchase bulk supplies of copper fungicide and spray oil, and contract aerial spraying at competitive rates. To get the best prices, forest owners should put in their requests for spraying by mid-August – but requests can be accepted after this.

Hammond says aerial spraying copper fungicide is a widely accepted practice, but it's important to ensure it is used correctly and is accurately applied. The DCC uses professional operators with good equipment.

"If there's less than 15 per cent infection level, it's probably not worth spraying, so it's wise

to assess the levels of infection before re-requesting treatment. That said, it's important not to leave it too long, or there could be serious damage to the stand."

For assistance in assessing levels of infection, forest owners should contact an FOA approved forest health surveyor, a registered forestry consultant, or someone suitably trained in Dothistroma assessment.

*For further information contact Don Hammond, tel 07 332 3454, or email [don@hrml.co.nz](mailto:don@hrml.co.nz)*



Forest Research

## Pesticide risks

The best way to manage pesticide risks is to introduce more modern, targeted and effective pesticides and systems. The blind reduction of pesticide use is not the way to go, says the Forest Owners Association (FOA).

In its submission on the Ministry for the Environment's (MfE) proposed pesticides risk reduction policy, FOA said the law as it stands ensures responsible use of pesticides while maintaining current production levels.

The Association said its code of practice, developed for members more than 10 years ago, provides clear guidelines on responsible pesticide use in forest management.

The code acknowledges that pesticides perform important functions in forest management, but their use also carries community responsibilities.

"A major parameter of that responsibility is reduction, while retaining effective use," says FOA Forest Health Committee chair, Bill Studholme.

The Association has also been active in sup-

porting non-pesticide methods of pest management, funding research into exploratory work on blackberry rust strains and bio-control of broom.

MfE senior policy analyst, Ian Cairns, says submissions on the proposed policy will be analysed before decisions are made by government, and any new programme is likely to be set in consultation with the private sector.

"Research needs to be carried out simultaneously with any new policy, and we need information about what is being used where, and by whom.

"There is a basic lack of information at the moment, and fears are built up around that."

He says funding for any new policy will not be available until after June 2003. ■

## Reducing herbicides

A software programme to evaluate the cost-benefit of spraying is being hailed as a breakthrough in the quest to reduce herbicide use.

VMAN (from Vegetation Manager) took Forest Research 12 years to develop, working in collaboration with industry. It is the first known model of its kind.

Project leader, Dr Brian Richardson, says VMAN will help forest managers decide whether or not it is worth spraying an area by analysing information about the variables on site. This will eliminate unnecessary spraying, reducing costs.

"A responsible approach to managing and justifying spray operations should also help to alleviate real or perceived public concerns around environmental impact."

Developed with input from the NZ Land Site Management Cooperative (NZSMC) and CHH Forests Ltd, VMAN is now available to NZSMC members. Options for general release are being investigated.

*For further information contact Dr Brian Richardson, tel 07 343 5899, or email [brian.richardson@forestresearch.co.nz](mailto:brian.richardson@forestresearch.co.nz)*

# New CEO to focus on trade

Stephen Jacobi, a former diplomat and government policy advisor, has been appointed chief executive of the Forest Industries Council (FIC).



Stephen Jacobi

Jacobi steps into his new role this month (September 2002), taking over from James Griffiths, who held the position since 1994.

Formerly executive director of the NZ Trade Liberalisation Network, Jacobi says he's looking forward to working in the forest industry, which he believes is in a 'strategic stage'.

"Forestry is a huge resource for this country – with huge issues to deal with, both nationally and internationally, to ensure we get maximum benefit from it.

"One of the big areas I'll be focusing on ini-

tially is freer trade for sustainable forest products."

FIC chair, Devon McLean, says Jacobi's specialist expertise in trade policy and international trade negotiations, along with his experience with the Wellington scene, were key to his appointment.

"International market development and trade access, through things like the World Trade Organisation, are essential to the future of forestry in New Zealand, and Stephen has the skills we need in those areas," says McLean.

"The partnership which has been built with government through the Wood Processing Strategy needs further development, and that will fit naturally with Stephen's strengths." ■

# Broader canvas for ex FIC boss

After eight years at the head of the Forest Industry Council (FIC), James Griffiths has moved on.

Griffiths took up his new role as director, sustainable forest products and biodiversity, with the World Business Council for Sustainable Development in Switzerland last month (August 2002).

FIC chair, Devon McLean, says the New Zealand forestry sector now has a "good friend in a very useful place".

He says Griffiths will be looking to improve

the forest industry's record of sustainable forest management and enhance consumer confidence in products that come from those forests.

"James will be doing much the same as he was here in terms of promoting sustainable forest management, but he will be painting on a broader canvas," says McLean.

Forest Owners Association (FOA) chief execu-

tive, Rob McLagan, says Griffiths was a strong supporter of industry initiatives to position plantation forestry as a sustainable land use, and his new role will also ensure forestry and wood products are accepted as environmentally friendly.

"James was also a significant contributor to the Council's role in promoting the industry's Vision 2025, and he positioned the Council as the voice of the industry in international trade and market access issues." ■

## Research

# Putting a price on logs

A new software package has been developed by Forest Research to help forest growers, log buyers, production planners and sawmill managers to value pruned logs.

The Pruned Log Index (PLI) Calculator, which can be downloaded and installed onto a personal computer, can automatically calculate the PLI for each log using simple log parameters.

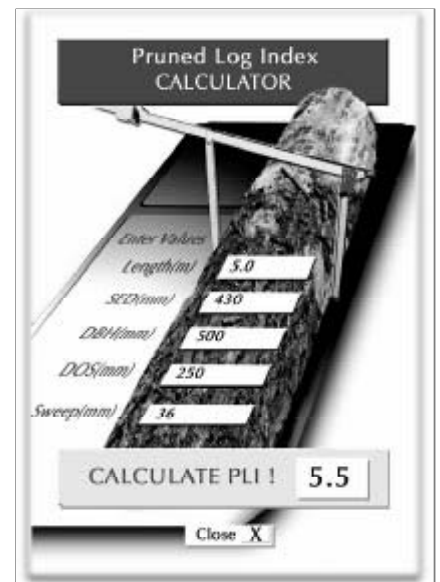
"PLI is now widely accepted by the forest industry both here and overseas, particularly in Chile, as a measure of pruned log quality and an important determinant of the pruned log price," says project leader, Dr Christine Todoroki.

"The PLI is usually determined by destructive

sampling and measurement of up to 20 trees from a forest lot. At around \$3,000–\$4,000 per stand, that can be costly," she says.

"But using this new software, the PLI can be calculated for a large number of logs based on stand records or sawmill data, which obviously reduces the costs substantially."

*The PLI Calculator is available from Forest Research. Contact Dr Christine Todoroki, tel 07 343 5899, or email [christine.todoroki@forestresearch.co.nz](mailto:christine.todoroki@forestresearch.co.nz)* ■



# Doing the hard yarders safely

It will be safer to work near a yarder tower following the introduction of a new industry standard.

Yarder towers are needed for efficient logging on steep terrain, but if they are not carefully maintained, there is the potential for them to collapse.

"The collapse of a tower in a harvesting operation can have serious consequences, so we're pleased to announce the release of this new industry standard which will contribute to a safer working environment," says FOA chief executive, Rob McLagan.

The Best Practice Guidelines for Maintenance Inspections of Yarder Towers was developed over 12 months by a task group chaired by Ian Reade and with input from harvesting contractors, engineers, forest owners, yarder manufacturers and Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) personnel.

The guidelines define how yarder towers are to be inspected, who will be permitted to inspect them, and how inspection records and maintenance and repair work records are to be kept.

Under the new guidelines, inspections will be carried out by engineers from the private sector. Inspectors will be trained through the Forest Industries Training (FIT) course, which will include a new NZQA unit standard for maintenance inspection of yarder towers. The first course will be held in Nelson (September 2002) and the second in Rotorua (October 2002).

*For further information on the guidelines or courses, contact FIT sector manager – forestry, Shayne Perrett, tel 07 348 7250, or email [shayne.perrett@training.org.nz](mailto:shayne.perrett@training.org.nz)*



The collapse of a yarder tower can have serious consequences

## Sustainability

# The \$57 million question

How to spend \$57 million a year on sustainability research? That's the basic question that the Foundation for Research, Science & Technology (FRST) is asking as it prepares for a new funding round for 2003 research.

To answer this question, FRST has requested submissions from the major land-based industries and formed cross-sector working groups to provide them with some signals.

FRST invests \$57 million a year on a wide range of research, from sustainable dairying to sustainability of natural ecosystems.

More than \$3 million a year goes to sustainable forestry research, including biosecurity and forest health, health and safety, and maintenance of site productivity. Significant investment also goes into other relevant research areas, such as the protection of land, freshwater and estuaries.

"It's very timely for a review of government's investment in sustainability research, given the large number of increasingly important external drivers causing the forest industry to focus on this area," says Bill Dyck, member of the FOA FRST Sustainability Review Committee.

"Top of the list right now is the drive for forest certification, which many companies are following in order to access a growing international market for certified products. But

there are also major external drivers such as the Montreal Process and the Kyoto Protocol that look for answers that currently aren't there."

FIC and FOA made a submission to FRST to continue to support the existing research programmes and to increase funding to many of the subject areas important to forest certification including: maintenance of biodiversity in production landscapes, protection of rare

and endangered species, reduction of chemical inputs and the development of alternative species/hybrids to spread risk.

"Not surprisingly perhaps, the two cross-sector working groups were unanimous that the number one focus should be on research that makes the most positive difference to improving the sustainability performance of New Zealand's terrestrial production systems," says Dyck.

"The working groups and the forestry submission made it clear that researchers should work together where possible and also take signals from the wider community, including **industry!**"



Fletcher Challenge Forests

### New logtruck website

The Log Transport Safety Council (LTSC) is developing a website to keep people informed about transport safety issues.

LTSC secretary Bruce Nairn says the council is in the process of taking over a website developed by LTSC members, [www.logtruck.co.nz](http://www.logtruck.co.nz), to use for this purpose.

"The website will include information from our incident database and 0800 reporting, and we'll keep people informed about where we are at with various projects. The aim is to update information monthly." 📄

### Illegal log trade

Russia's multi-billion dollar illegal logging business is threatening its unique plant and animal life, including rare Siberian tigers, and helped trigger recent disastrous floods, according to the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF).

The WWF report on the \$700 million annual Russian-Japanese timber trade said widespread illegal logging and wasteful forestry management were laying waste to hard-timber forests in Russia's Far East and south Siberia.

Director of WWF-Russia, Igor Chestin, said illegal logging had accelerated in the decade since the collapse of the Soviet Union, harming bio-diversity and causing climate change. 📄

### Asian demand for NZ logs

A surge in sales to China and higher world log prices contributed to Carter Holt Harvey's (CHH) \$73 million profit for the six months to 30 June 2002. The company experienced a loss of \$15 million for the same period last year.

Chief executive Chris Liddell said the good result came from strong markets in New Zealand and Australia, with better sales volumes and prices.

He released figures showing an increase in sales to China of more than 350 per cent, and emphasised how important the growing Asian market was for the long-term future of the company. 📄

### RMA workshops

Workshops to further develop best practice by councils for RMA planning and consenting processes will be held throughout the country late in October. This work is in parallel with the industry Code of Practice that is currently in development.

The workshops will be attended by key council people and industry representatives. Anyone interested in attending should contact FIC/FOA, tel 04 4734769, or email [christine@nzfoa.org.nz](mailto:christine@nzfoa.org.nz) 📄



### Safer loading codes

The Forest Owners Association and the Log Transport Safety Council (LTSC) is producing a code that deals with loading and unloading empty logging trailers onto trucks.

"There have been several near-hits relating to lifting equipment (chains or stops) breaking because the equipment has been loaded or unloaded incorrectly," says LTSC secretary Bruce Nairn.

The code will be distributed to operators once finalised.

Nairn says the new code should not be confused with the loading/unloading code for logging trucks that was distributed earlier this year, which dealt with logs, not trailers.

Copies of that code are available from Bruce Nairn, mobile 025 943 695, email [tgmsservices@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tgmsservices@xtra.co.nz) 📄

## Research

# Wood quality initiative on track

The Wood Quality Initiative (WQI) Research Consortium is expected to become a reality within months, along with the establishment of a limited liability company to manage the programme's intellectual property rights.

Led by the Forest Industries Council (FIC), the WQI Research Consortium is a partnership between industry and government, based on co-funding of research projects.

"This is an exciting initiative for all parts of the industry, and has generated interest both in New Zealand and overseas," says FIC research manager, Margaret Emerre.

"The research programme is still being refined, but initially we'll be looking into fundamental cell-level wood structure and better ways to measure wood quality. The development of tools will also be a significant focus.

"Provided industry funding is committed to the project, the WQI Research Consortium will become a reality in a few months time," she says.

"The initial \$1.5 million of industry money we are looking for will be matched by \$1.5 million from the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology."

Shareholders of the new company, WQI Limited, will be made up of forest industry companies.

Once established, Emerre says WQI Limited will commission research from the most "able and creative" scientists.

*For more information, contact Margaret Emerre, tel 04 913 8701, or email [margaret@nzfic.org.nz](mailto:margaret@nzfic.org.nz)* 📄

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