

# Rule change approved

## – forty per cent less rollovers expected

The number of logging truck rollovers on public roads is expected to nearly halve following government approval to increase the length of loads from 20 to 22 metres.

The new rule comes into force on 20 June, and Log Transport Safety Council (LTSC) secretary Bruce Nairn, says the decision is great news for the industry. It comes after six years of research, and extensive trials to prove the case for longer, more stable loads.

"Our trials showed the number of rollovers would nearly halve. Those compelling results, along with the support from organisations like the Automobile Association and regional

councils, and families of victims involved in accidents, has all helped toward getting this important safety initiative approved," says Nairn.

FOA Transportation Committee chair, Doug Robertson, says the rule change couldn't have come at a better time – with the harvested wood product in New Zealand expected to double by 2015 to 32 million cubic metres.

"That's obviously going to mean more trucks

on the road, particularly in areas like East Coast and Northland where the roads are poorer and there is a greater risk of rollover. This rule change is certainly going to help with log truck safety – there's no doubt about that."

### Operational changes

Roberston says the rule change is not compulsory, so the next step is to make it work. FOA and LTSC will send guidelines to all forest growers and operators on how to utilise the new provisions before the rule change comes into force.

"FOA members are strongly encouraged to make sure operators use the right truck configuration to take advantage of the new rule. Operationally, it's going to take cooperation from truck operators, harvesting crews, forest owners and logistics coordinators. We need the right segregation of log lengths out in the bush so we can take advantage of the new rule, and double bunk the logs," he says.

All trucks carrying extended loads will be required to display a 22 metre truck sign, and the 0800 LOGTRUCK number.

For further information, contact Doug Roberston, tel 07 350 0863, or Bruce Nairn, mobile, 025 943 695, or email, [tgmsservices@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tgmsservices@xtra.co.nz)



Martin Hyde (centre) from LTSC, and Paul van der Voort (right) from Fletcher Challenge Forests explain the benefits of 22 metre logging trucks to Transport Minister Mark Gosche at Kaingaroa Forest

## Power planning underway


A new energy committee is being established under the Wood Processing Strategy to look at how to supply electricity to a larger processing industry in New Zealand.

Joint FIC/FOA Environment Committee chair, Bruce Chapman, will co-chair the new committee along with Ewan Gebbie from Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA).

Representatives from Carter Holt Harvey and Fletcher Challenge Forest will be advisors from the industry, and the Ministry of Eco-

nomic Development, Industry New Zealand, and EECA will also be represented.

Chapman says the committee is yet to finalise its work programme, but will be looking at energy market structures, electricity and gas supply issues and potential for bio-energy development.

"It's important we address the issue [of electricity supply] now, because if we can't supply it, or if the costs are unreasonable, wood processing will go offshore." 

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# In my view

## Accentuating the positive

The forest industry seems to attract a fair measure of criticism, some of which is justified, but much of which is based on a poor understanding of the positive changes taking place.

An industry which increased its export earnings by 34 per cent to \$3.7 billion for the two years ending December 2001 can't be doing everything wrong. In fact, many positive developments are occurring.

Useful outcomes are now emerging from the Wood Processing Strategy partnership between the government and industry, a number of which are reported in this edition of the Forestry Bulletin: the allocation of \$2.7 million to establish a new training centre (see page 4), \$30 million partly available to upgrade roads for the increasing forest harvest, and agreement to improve the resource consent process for new and expanded wood processing facilities.

The industry is also finalising arrangements with the Foundation of Research, Science and Technology to establish the Wood Quality Initiative project to improve the quality of our

future tree stock and to provide the tools to measure more accurately the quality of trees already in the ground. Work is in progress to improve access to overseas markets for New Zealand wood products and also to remove barriers to their use in construction through changes to local building codes. Good progress is also being made in developing national standards to certify that New Zealand's forests are sustainably managed.


Given these positive developments, it is disappointing that two pieces of legislation – one already in the House and the other pending – could affect the future growth of the industry.

The Local Government Amendment Bill, giving the power of general competence to territorial authorities and widening their purpose, has the potential to result in significant increases in rates. Unlike central government, local government has few effective checks and balances on the way in which it raises and

expends its revenue. This Bill should be withdrawn and discussed with all stakeholders before proceeding further.

The second major piece of legislation which could have far reaching effects on the forest industry is the proposed Climate Change Bill. As currently proposed, this legislation would allow the government to take ownership of carbon credits sequestered in trees owned by private forest owners and, worse still, use some of the carbon credits to shield competitors of wood – steel, cement and aluminum – from having to reduce their fossil fuel emissions.

We are pleased the government has now agreed to enter into further discussions on this issue – particularly on how the vast amounts of carbon sequestered from the atmosphere by forests can be used to offset the increased costs to the industry (higher fuel and transport costs) from New Zealand ratifying the Kyoto Protocol.

Sure the industry has its challenges, but it has shown that by working in partnership with others – including the government – these can and are being successfully addressed. 

### New appointment

## NZIF looks to improve forestry's image

The New Zealand Institute of Forestry's new president, Tim Thorpe, says improving the image of forestry will be his main focus.

"Forestry has taken a beating in a range of areas recently, with investment concerns, environmental issues, and concerns about employment practices. These areas need to be addressed, and the Institute will be looking at actively promoting



Tim Thorpe

a positive message through submissions, and through the media where appropriate."

A second-generation forester, Thorpe is cur-


rently a special advisor at the Ministry of Economic Development where much of his time is spent on the Wood Processing Strategy. He took over the presidency of NZIF in March, and acknowledges the contribution retiring president Peter Berg made to the Institute.

"Peter made a huge contribution in his four years as president, particularly with his involvement with the FOA. He ensured the Institute's voice was heard in industry forums, which was particularly appreciated."

Thorpe says the Institute will continue to offer

services to members in the area of continuing professional development, and setting standards for the industry.

"Approximately 80 forestry consultants have been registered to the NZIF quality assurance scheme since its inception four or five years ago, and the registration process is well recognised in the industry. Obviously we would encourage all forestry consultants to enlist in the scheme."

*For information on joining NZIF or becoming a registered forestry consultant, contact Tim Thorpe, tel 04 474 2683, email [tim.thorpe@med.govt.nz](mailto:tim.thorpe@med.govt.nz), or visit the NZIF website, [www.nzif.co.nz](http://www.nzif.co.nz) *

# Carbon credits a sore point

The government released its preferred policy package on ratifying the Kyoto Protocol last month, outlining a clear intention to nationalise carbon credits. Reaction from the forest industry was swift.

The New Zealand Forest Owners Association (FOA) and New Zealand Farm Forest Association (FFA) jointly expressed strong opposition to the government's decision to take ownership of all forest sinks in a letter penned to the Convenor of the Ministerial Group on Climate Change, Pete Hodgson, the week of the announcement.

"As the forest owning and growing industry has stated consistently, and in accordance with the principles of private property ownership in New Zealand, the sinks properly belong to the owners of the trees," said FOA president, Peter Berg, and FFA Kyoto spokesperson, Mike Halliday.

"It is difficult to see forest growers benefiting from the total loss of their carbon credits at the same time as their cost structure (for fuel, etc) is increased."

Further concern was expressed at the suggestion that revenue from sale of the sinks could be used to shield non-forest emitters

from the cost of their emissions.

"This is especially unfair on the forest growing industry, particularly as a number of the industries which will benefit from the sink credits are competitors with wood," they said.

Halliday says the irony of the government's suggested policies are well illustrated by the farm foresters' situation.

"Farmers who grow trees to counter the negative impact their animals have on the environment should be held up as perfect examples of 'best practice', not be penalised by having their credits confiscated at the same time as funding research to counter ruminant methane emissions."

Talks between Minister Hodgson and representatives from the wider forest industry were held last month, and agreement has been reached for further dialogue with government officials on the policy package to push the case for a fairer deal for forestry.

FOA chief executive, Rob McLagan, says: "If



Fletcher Challenge Forests

Industries competing with wood will benefit from sink credits

the government is to take ownership of carbon sinks, the least the industry expects is that a reasonable portion of sink revenues is used to offset the cost increases which the Kyoto Protocol will impose on the forest sector through higher transport and energy costs."

*A discussion document can be obtained from [info@climatechange.govt.nz](mailto:info@climatechange.govt.nz), or tel 0800 WARMING. For further information on the industry's response to the government's policies on climate change, contact Rob McLagan, tel 04 473 4769*

## Transport

# Highways or roads?

The state highway review could result in some highways being reclassified as local roads, and the funding for their upkeep being transferred from Transit New Zealand to councils. The opposite could also occur.

FOA Transportation Committee chair, Doug Robertson, says the Association has made submissions on the broader issues raised in the review, but urges member companies to get involved at a local level.

"We need a roading system that takes into account the major wood flow movements, and the Association supports the concept of an integrated national network that caters for the transportation of logs to ports and

mills, or between regions, as is outlined in the review.

"However, the suggestion that some state highways could be transferred to district or regional council control raises concerns about how well those roads will then be maintained."

He says member companies concerned about the classification of specific roads in their area should make submissions on Transit New Zealand's preliminary decisions, due to be published in July. Submissions close on 30 September 2002.

*For further information, contact Doug Robertson, tel 07 350 0863, or see Transit New Zealand's website, [www.transit.govt.nz](http://www.transit.govt.nz)*

## Indigenous forest a "gift"

Carter Holt Harvey (CHH) has sold a 70ha block of indigenous forest to Department of Conservation (DoC) for what was described as a "gift" price.

Local iwi, Ngatihine, approached CHH to sell the land so it could be added to the Motatau Forest reserve, 52km north-west of Whangarei. The area is sacred to Maori, and had become a safe haven for kiwi and Kukupa, following efforts by Te Runanga o Ngatihine, DoC, Landcare Research and territorial authorities to eradicate pests.

CHH says it strongly supports the protection of indigenous flora and fauna.

# PM: Forestry needs more trainees

The number of people training to work in the forest industry needs to increase by 100 per cent in the next five years to meet industry requirements, said the Prime Minister Helen Clark.

Speaking at the Forest Industries Training Awards in Rotorua in April, Ms Clark said the forest industry and government had worked together to develop a skilled forestry workforce, with nearly 10,000 trainees in programmes by the end of this year.

"That represents an increase of 100 per cent in just four years," she said. But still more were needed.

FOA president Peter Berg says 50 per cent of those trainees will be needed in the forest growing sector.

"There will be major expansion in harvesting over the next few years, and we're seriously short of skilled labour in that area, as well as in silviculture.

"It's important that if we're going to realise the investment that's been made in establish-

ing forestry in New Zealand, we have to carefully manage this situation."

He says continued commitment to training is part of the answer, "particularly in areas like East Coast and Northland where they're really feeling the pinch".

"But we also need to address the negative perception and attitude the community has toward forestry. That's going to take a concerted effort across the industry."

Berg says the industry's safety record, including logging truck accidents, has contributed to the negative perception.

"The industry has made good progress in addressing these issues, but we need to be much better at doing some of the things we do, and accentuate the positive aspects of working in the forest industry," he says.



FOA President Peter Berg – "we have to carefully manage this situation."

"The message is people can contribute in a meaningful way to an industry that has a lot to offer New Zealand, and there are great career opportunities for people at all levels. We need people in finance and management just as much as we need skilled and capable people to pull the logs off the land."

From an environmental perspective, he says, forestry contributes more than many other primary industries that not only consume energy, but emit carbon and other greenhouse gases.

"In terms of New Zealand's commitment to the climate change protocol, the forest industry makes a significant net contribution in the form of carbon storage."

## World class training centre

Industry New Zealand has injected \$2 million into a new world-class training centre for wood processing to counter an anticipated skill shortage in the industry.

Minister of Economic Development, Jim Anderton, made the announcement last



Fletcher Challenge Forests

The new training centre will counter a skill shortage in wood processing

month at Waiariki Institute of Technology (WIT), the site of the new training centre. He said it was a step toward forestry becoming a \$20 billion a year industry in New Zealand.

"Our plantation wood volumes will double over the next 20 years and New Zealand needs to have the skills in place to get highest value from our wood exports," he said. "The potential benefit to our national economy amounts to billions of dollars."

The National Centre of Excellence in Wood Processing Education and Training is an initiative of Forest Industries Training (FIT), WIT and the University of Auckland, who will fund the remainder of the \$2,670,000 required for phase one of the project. The second implementation phase will cost an estimated \$10-15 million.

FIT chief executive, John Blakey, says the centre will provide New Zealand with a seamless,

integrated training and education system in wood processing comparable to that in forest growing.

Forest Industries Council chief executive, James Griffiths, says the aim of the Wood Processing Strategy (WPS) is to make the forest industry New Zealand's number one export sector by 2005.

Goals include trebling current annual exports to \$10 billion by 2010, and increasing forest industry employment by 20 per cent in the next three years.

"Achieving these goals will require a big increase in added-value processing. We currently have a shortage of skilled people staring us in the face. This new training facility is an essential step in turning our vision of for the wood processing industry into a reality."

# Awards celebrate success

The number of people attending the annual Forest Industry Training awards has trebled since the first event was held three years ago.

More than 600 attended the 2002 awards in Rotorua in April, where 340 national certificates and a range of special awards were given out.

Forest Industries Training (FIT) CEO, John Blakey, says the awards work because they celebrate success.

"A lot of people in this industry might never have received any kind of recognition for their achievements. Statistically, people came into this industry with only one, or no School Certificate subjects," says Blakey.

"But the unit standards qualifications system

gives them a structure and a framework to work in, and a lot are really achieving – up to level four, which is equivalent of 7<sup>th</sup> form or first year university study. Understanding the theory behind what they're doing at work every day is really important."

## Promoting careers in forestry

Blakey says the industry awards not only celebrate success, but also show that forestry is a good industry to work in.

"People are being successful, getting trained,

and earning qualifications that are nationally and internationally recognised. We are getting inquiries from around the world for our training material."

To further promote careers in the forest industry, FIT recently employed a full-time careers advisor on a year's trial basis.

"The trial will be in the central North Island, but if this works, we'll pick it up and run it as a national careers programme," says Blakey.

FIT also launched a new website in April, and has produced a generic video promoting the full range of companies operating in the forest industry.

For further information, visit the FIT website, [www.training.org.nz](http://www.training.org.nz)

# Female harvester wins top award

Twenty-one year old Alena Beard from Nelson won this year's Modern Apprentice of the Year for Harvesting – after completing nearly four national certificates in less than two years.

When he signed Alena up as one of the first modern apprentices, Regional Training advisor, Tom Snodgrass, said she had a "get on with the job" attitude, and could handle a chainsaw as well as any of the crew on her parent's Nelson logging operation.


"Beard Logging have logged some tough country, often out in the Sounds, quite isolated. The apprenticeship style of coordinated training has worked well for Beard Logging and for Alena. They can get on with their business, and we can manage the completion of Alena's qualifications," he says.

When she's not operating heavy machinery at work, Alena is usually playing rugby or basketball, practising martial arts or doing kapa haka. Somehow, she still finds time to study.

"But I don't find the study too difficult. I've been doing this for a while and a lot of it's common sense. I suppose because I've grown up around it," she says.

"Still, it was cool to win the award, and to get some recognition for what I do. I really didn't think I'd win."

As for the future, once she buys a house, Alena plans to "do the big OE", and maybe try her hand at logging in Canada.


"Then one day, I'll probably run the business for Dad." 

## High Maori achievement

Maori are achieving better than average results in forest industry training, according to FIT statistics.

"Forty-nine percent of our apprentices are Maori, and they are achieving 51 per cent of the credits and qualifications," says FIT CEO John Blakey. "Given that the national Maori population is only around 15 per cent of the population, they are disproportionately represented in this industry, and achieving above average results."

Blakey says FIT specifically targets Maori in the design of its programmes.

"As an organisation, we take into account how Maori feel about the forest, the tikanga of the forest, and respect Maori thinking and beliefs about it. I think that shows in the number of Maori on our training programmes." 



Forest Industries Training

Modern Apprentice of the Year for Harvesting, Alena Beard (centre) with Prime Minister Helen Clark and FIT chief executive, John Blakey

# MAF studies forest health scheme

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) is looking at the Forest Health Surveillance scheme with a view to giving it official government recognition. This would give the industry more credibility when negotiating access to overseas markets.



Forest Research

The agencies involved in forest biosecurity now have a better understanding of what each other is doing

Forest Health Committee Chair, Bill Studholme, said MAF's recognition would be particularly helpful to reassure trading partners.

"It will help reassure those countries that New Zealand forests are regularly and effectively checked for forest pests and diseases," he says.

The issue was raised at a meeting between MAF and FOA in April, which followed on from the biosecurity/forest health workshop held in mid-February as part of the government's Wood Processing Strategy.

Studholme says good progress had been made on many of the key issues identified in February's workshop.

"The various agencies involved in forest biosecurity surveillance, data collection, and research now have a better understanding of what each other is doing, and an umbrella strategy will be developed to ensure greater coordination of effort."

He says some industry members expressed surprise that forest health conditions were not


routinely reported when forest health surveillance monitoring was conducted.

"Instead, many companies are choosing simply to look for new incursions rather than to report on the general condition of their forests.

"I will be recommending that all companies routinely collect forest health condition information, and that the information be summarised and reported as trends. That way, FOA can readily determine if some pests and diseases are increasing in severity and becoming more widespread."

Studholme says excellent opportunities were identified at the meeting for the industry to provide greater leadership in determining forest health research priorities, and to achieve better coordination between industry and research providers.

In particular, an opportunity was identified to lead an international research effort to better understand the potential impacts of pine pitch canker (PPC) on radiata pine, and to put barriers in place to reduce the risk of PPC entry to New Zealand.

A proposal agreed to at the workshop to investigate the entry pathways for a number of categories of exotic pests and diseases of potential threat to New Zealand was also endorsed at the meeting. 

## Resource Management Act

# Improving the RMA process

An industry Code of Practice (COP) to improve compliance with the Resource Management Act is expected to be in use by the forest industry and councils throughout New Zealand by the end of the year.

Jointly funded by the Ministry for Economic Development and the forest industry, the COP is one of two projects currently being developed by the Wood Processing Strategy RMA Working Group. The second is the development of council best practice for the planning and consenting processes.

Co-chair of the group, Peter Sligh, says a reference group of local government and industry representatives is being set up to vet


the COP information and ensure progress is effectively communicated as the work is progressed through to implementation.

A first draft will be circulated as part of council best practice workshops planned for July/August.

"The priority districts for the increased harvest have been identified to provide a focus for these workshops, which will be local government-led with assistance from the

Ministry for the Environment," says Sligh.

He says that while the council best practice has been initiated from the Wood Processing Strategy (WPS) work, it will be applicable for councils to use for all developments and activities – not just wood processing.

The RMA Working Group continues to make progress on other WPS action items. Reports on the RMA implications for wood processing have been distributed widely to all councils and industry throughout the country, and Investment New Zealand recently completed an update of the RMA guide for overseas investors. This was released late in May, and includes a supplement that covers specific wood processing information. 

# President leaves FFA in good shape

Balclutha farm forest grower Ken Stephens has taken over the reins from Mike Halliday at the New Zealand Farm Forestry Association.

Stephens was appointed president at the 2002 NZFFA Annual Conference held in Timaru in April, along with a new vice president – Gisborne farmer, Nick Seymour.


Stephens, who has been planting trees on his family's sheep, beef and deer farm for so long that they've already harvested the first wood lots, says that despite recent reports to the contrary, there are great prospects for radiata pine and other plantation species being grown in New Zealand.

"Not least is the appeal of wood as a low energy, renewable, natural material – the atmosphere's natural guardian."

He says if the trees are well maintained and looked after – "you can get very good results".

As far as the future direction of FFA, Stephens says there will always be challenges – such as building membership, FSC (Forest Stewardship Council), Kyoto, the Wood Quality Initiative, and generally promoting the organisation – but the Association is in good shape to deal with them.

"Mike has done a fantastic job. He's got things going in the right direction, and we've got a very able executive – so it will be more of the same," he says.

"We've still got Mike advising on Kyoto, John Prebble on FSC, Denis Hocking, Patrick Milne and John Edmonds in research – so there's a lot of guys in the right places keeping things rolling on." 



NZ Forest Industries Magazine

Immediate past president of FFA, Mike Halliday (left) hands over the reins to Ken

## Painted apple moth update


The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) says its fight against painted apple moth is having an impact.

MAF's programme coordinator, Don Hammond, said in May that totals from the male moth trap catches in the previous three months had shown a significant and constant drop in male moth count – down from a peak of 900 a week before aerial spraying, to just over 70 in recent weeks.

He says MAF is now using a fixed wing plane as well as a helicopter so the spraying can be completed in less time, and because the targeted zone has been expanded in the past few months.

"The original 300 ha area was fine for a helicopter, but we are now tackling an area of 600 ha."

He says being able to complete the spraying in fewer hours, means the weather is less likely to cause the delays it has in the past.

Meanwhile, North Shore Mayor George Wood has said he supports aerial spraying on the North Shore, following Auckland Regional Council support for blanket spraying of areas where the moth is known to be. 

# Trees, not tree politics

With 30 years practical experience, Mike Halliday knows a thing or two about farming and farm forestry.

Last year he won the Hawkes Bay Regional Council's environmental award for leadership in sustainable land management for work on his 460 hectare Patoka property, and for promoting sustainable land management practices in the wider community.

He says after two years as president of the Farm Forestry Association (FFA), he is looking forward to working on trees more than tree politics. And with 40 ha of plantation forestry, a 50 ha QEII Trust covenant, 1500 breeding ewes and 100-odd cows to look after, he says he has a lot of catching up to do.

"We're also planning on planting out another gully this year, and putting in a block of Douglas fir, so there's plenty to keep me busy".

However, as immediate past president of FFA, he won't avoid 'tree politics' all together.


"The biggest challenge facing the organisa-

tion and the industry is dealing with the 6000 -7000 New Zealand forest owners who are not members of either FFA or FFA.

"There are two problems with that. One is that while we are doing all the work, they are benefiting. And the other is that we are all missing out on the benefit of their input."

Another challenge is ensuring that forest growers aren't compromised in the trend toward further processing.

Mike says FFA and FFA, while they are two separate organisations catering for different issues within forestry, have a lot of primary production issues they need to work together on – such as RMA, roading and biodiversity.

"I think everyone benefits from a close working relationship. We're already doing a lot, with very positive outcomes, but we can't afford to take our eye off the ball." 

# Port companies toe the line

FOA doesn't believe New Zealand port companies are engaging in anti-competitive practices or monopoly pricing.


"While the potential does exist for port companies to abuse their market power – given that there is generally only one port in each region – we don't believe it is currently happening," says Doug Robertson, chair of the FOA Transportation Committee.

"However, if that situation does arise, we would expect the Commerce Commission to respond quickly and effectively."

These sentiments were outlined in a recent submission to Charles River Associates (CRA), appointed by the government to investigate alleged anti-competitive practices by port

companies. The final report from CRA supported the Association's view.

Robertson says it's up to the Commerce Commission to "keep an eye on things", and doesn't believe the answer necessarily lies in having more ports to increase competition.

"The suggestion of establishing a port in Tolaga Bay, for instance, only 50–60km from an existing port, makes no sense from an economic point of view. It might improve competition, but the region's resources will be split between the two, and the volumes going through both ports could mean an increase in rates for forest owners in any case, as neither port would operate at an economic scale." 

## FOA Briefs

### Audit your operators

FOA member companies are being asked to audit their transport operators to ensure they are meeting the requirements of the Log Transport Safety Accord.

Log Transport Safety Council (LTSC) secretary, Bruce Nairn, says as signatories to the Accord, FOA members should only use transport operators that display the 0800 LOGTRUCK number on their vehicles.

"There are a number of logging trucks, particularly in the lower North Island, that are still driving around without the 0800 number displayed. FOA member companies should audit their operators to make sure they have a copy of the Accord, and have the 0800 signs fitted to their trucks."

He says feedback from the 0800 number allows the Council to give operators and forest owners quantified comment about the drivers.

"The other issue to consider is that if operators want to take up the proposed 22 metre option, 0800 signs will be part of the operating conditions."

Nairn says FOA got an overwhelming

response for large A3 copies of the Accord from LTSC members – which is a good sign. "People are clearly taking this safety initiative seriously."

For copies of the Log Transport Safety Accord, contact Christine Molineux at FOA, ph 04 473 4769, email [christine@nzfoa.org.nz](mailto:christine@nzfoa.org.nz) 

### Sensible Spraying

The National Rural Fire Equipment Working Group has been progressively developing an on-line catalogue of fire equipment that meets appropriate safety and performance standards.

The Fire Equipment Catalogue can be found on the National Rural Fire Authority (NRFA) website, [www.fire.org.nz/rural](http://www.fire.org.nz/rural).


"We've found the best way to keep the catalogue up to date is to have it live on the website, rather than printing copies. It has been vastly updated in the past few weeks, so we would encourage FOA members to visit the site," says FOA's working group representative, Mark Strong.


For further information, contact Mark Strong, tel 07 366 1011, or go directly to

## New transport strategy

A transport strategy which sets out the government's vision and direction for transport in New Zealand is being developed for all modes of transport (air, sea and land) and all users – including pedestrians, cyclists and the mobility impaired.

While it won't be a blueprint or shopping list for future transport projects, the government says the New Zealand Transport Strategy will provide guidance for developing a transport system that, by 2010, is affordable, integrated, safe, responsive and sustainable.

It says the strategy will recognise the importance of sectors such as forestry and tourism in New Zealand's future economic growth. 


the catalogue online, [http://nrfa.fire.org.nz/nrfa\\_biz/equipment/index.htm](http://nrfa.fire.org.nz/nrfa_biz/equipment/index.htm). 

### Safe fire equipment

The Ministry for the Environment (MFE) has released a public discussion paper on its proposed pesticides risk reduction policy and is calling for submissions by 21 June 2002.

FOA Forest Health Committee chair, Bill Studholme, says FOA will be making a submission, and individual forest owners should submit their views also.

"While the Association endorses the overall sentiment of the policy, it should be noted that there has been a significant reduction in pesticide use in forests over recent years. Forest owners have no interest in using more pesticides than is absolutely necessary. Therefore, the path toward pesticide reduction should be trod with care. The use of pesticides should be minimised and focused, but not at the expense of an uneconomic return to the industry, and to the country," he says.

For further information, contact FOA chief executive Rob McLagan, tel 04 473 4769, or visit the MFE website, [www.mfe.govt.nz](http://www.mfe.govt.nz) 

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