

Government focus at forestry conference

This year's national conference of the Forest Industries Council (FIC) and Forest Owners Association (FOA) could mark the beginning of a new era for industry-government relations. Scheduled for 5 October at Auckland's Waipuna Hotel and Conference Centre, its theme is 'Building the Forest Industry/Government Partnership'.

Lively discussion is expected during the afternoon, when mini-workshops offer industry leaders and commentators the opportunity to engage in robust, "real-time" discussions with key Ministers covering the training (Hon. Steve Maharey); safety (Hon. Ruth Dyson); environment & biosecurity (Hon.

Marian Hobbs) and forestry, energy and exporter services portfolios (Hon. Peter Hodgson). Participants at the conference will be asked to rate the priority of these key development issues and also gauge industry and government response strategies and activities on each issue.

The workshops follow the FOA and FIC's respective Annual General

Meetings and an address by Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Jim Anderton on his vision of the role of the forest industry in sustainable regional development throughout New Zealand. Participants at the conference will be able to rate the priority of the development challenges facing the industry. Political commentator Colin James will provide a summary.

Dothistroma concerns highlighted by forest owners' group

The NZ Forest Owners Association has issued a statement to highlight concerns regarding dothistroma pine needle blight. The blight affects the health and growth of pine trees, and each summer affected forests throughout New Zealand are aerially sprayed with a copper fungicide to control the disease.

The Dothistroma Control Committee of the NZFOA coordinates the spray programme on behalf of all forest owners. However, the committee is concerned that forest owners or managers of small blocks may overlook the presence of the disease in their forests until serious damage to the stands has occurred. In addition, untreated stands create a source of infection to neighbouring forests.

The committee's services are available to all forest owners to ensure the best control of the disease in the most cost effective manner.

If assistance is required to assess levels of infection, please contact a NZFOA approved forest health surveyor, registered forestry consultant or those trained in Dothistroma assessment.

Indicative MAF Log Prices

The following log prices are reported by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry for the June Quarter 2000.

Generic Log Type & Pricing Point	March 2000 Quarter	Jun 2000 Quarter
EXPORT (NZ\$ per JAS m³ f.o.b.)		
Pruned	176-218	190-219
Unpruned A Grade	98-121	106-130
Unpruned J Grade	92-104	94-106
Unpruned K Grade	84-102	84-106
Pulp	58-63	62-65
DOMESTIC (NZ\$ per tonne delivered at mill)		
P1	147-175	150-175
P2	102-150	107-150
S1	105-114	95-119
S2	85-96	80-107
L1 and L2	53-83	54-85
S3 and L3	58-78	56-71
Pulp	32-47	32-44

Generic Log Type & Pricing Point	March 1999 Quarter	Jun 1999 Quarter	Sept 1999 Quarter	Dec 1999 Quarter
EXPORT (NZ\$ per JAS m³ f.o.b.)				
Pruned	186-200	180-198	167-186	171-206
Unpruned A Grade	93-119	104-107	94-112	98-119
Unpruned J Grade	78-89	70-89	71-85	80-98
Unpruned K Grade	52-92	72-83	78-89	83-110
Pulp	47-54	54-62	59-61	58-72
DOMESTIC (NZ\$ per tonne delivered at mill)				
P1	134-180	145-180	146-175	146-175
P2	112-130	108-145	96-160	98-160
S1	75-117	90-101	84-93	82-107
S2	71-97	78-90	78-89	82-95
L1 and L2	50-72	52-86	51-82	50-85
S3 and L3	56-79	45-62	43-65	54-68
Pulp	27-39	28-39	28-39	24-40

Returns to small growers may be lower than those recorded here owing to scale and buyers' margins. These log prices are historical and indicative only, and may not correspond to actual prices paid, or grades used, in market transactions. The prices are subject to changes when further data becomes available. The sources for this information are Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry industry contacts.