The report, however, is more than a document on research needs. It contains a valuable review of most facets of shelter. It is, therefore, an excellent summary of our current knowledge on shelter and provides the reader with a clear oversight of the subject. The report concentrates on the need for shelter (did you know for example that over 3.3m ha of New Zealand may suffer from wind erosion?), how animals and plants respond to shelter, and the need for shelter in specific situations. The management of shelter for wood production and the dissemination of information on shelter are also covered.

Surprisingly, the relation of shelter to landscape values was not discussed, although it may have been considered outside the scope of the Working Party.

These topics are viewed from both an international and a national viewpoint; the number of references is impressive.

It also contains a limited amount of previously unpublished research results. From these reviews the authors have discussed future research needs. The central theme is that shelter is a very complex topic. Hence past research has often been patchy, much is of limited value and does not necessarily apply to New Zealand conditions. It is clear, for example, that we cannot predict the size of responses possible under the wide variation found in climate, topography and shelterbelt design, nor are we in a good position to translate these into optimum farm management strategies. However, the potential value to the farming and forestry sector economies is great. C. G. R. Chavasse, in his review of timber production, highlighted the potential production from shelterbelts. At the same time he stressed a need for research into assessing volumes and values of shelter trees, the determination of best shelterbelt structure and the development of shelter for hilly country.

The review also points out that in 1984 there was only a 12-man-year-equivalent research effort into shelter. Considering the potential benefits and comparing this to the research effort into other branches of agriculture and forestry (e.g., 345 man years in hill country investigations), it is apparent that a good case can be made for more manpower.

Indications are that the report has stimulated some extra effort. Furthermore, one of the main recommendations that a coordinating committee for research and extension in shelter be set up has been implemented.

It is good that this report is not gathering dust. The general reader will also find it a useful readable account. At $10 it is very good value.

D.J.M.

**PRICE INDICES**


Currently stumpages for state wood are adjusted automatically between stumpage reviews in line with the Consumers Price Index (CPI). There was general agreement in the Working Party on the sale of State Wood of the 1981 Forestry Conference that the CPI was not an appropriate index for stumpage adjustment because it ensured the seller maintained his purchasing power but provided no such protection to the buyer. The Working Party considered the index particularly inappropriate for an increasingly export orientated industry because of the likely weak association of movements in domestic retail prices and export prices of forest products. Any link between the two is perhaps even more unlikely following the floating of the New Zealand dollar.

This report is the result of the deliberations of a specialist sub-committee of the Forestry Council which was asked by the Forestry Conference to examine the possibility of deriving “market related” indices to replace the CPI. The early sections of the paper point out the shortcomings of the CPI and merits of an index linked to prices of processed forest products. Problems of deciding the correct product weightings for an index and the number of price quotations to be collected for each product type included in an index are discussed.

The second part of the report presents worked examples of two indices: one for pulpwod and one for sawlogs. The Council plans to publish these indices regularly together with four additional ones for posts and poles, peeler logs, wood-based panels and an All Forest Products Price Index. The Council clearly feels that the two indices most likely to be taken up are those for sawlogs and pulpwod. Possible changes in price escalation indices should in the writer’s view be seen in the broader context of changing policies on the pricing of state wood. If imposed, these policies will lead to substantial and rapid increases in stumpages (see A. Kirkland: The Pricing and Allocation of State Wood — A Discussion Paper. Forestry Council Working Paper No. 2 1984) and it therefore seems that a particularly apt time to change from the CPI to a more equitable base. The proposed indices show how this could be done. They have much to commend them to grower and user.

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