These changes will hopefully help to reduce the backlog of appeals and the delays faced by all parties to appeals. The Government has also increased Vote: Courts by $1.6 million to fund the expanded Court.

In addition, the Bill brought transitional regulations into the principal Act relating to activities on the surface of lakes and rivers and to minor discharges, made technical clarifications regarding when provisions in a proposed plan take effect, and introduced a new enforcement provision of infringement notices or instant fines limited to $1000.

All these amendments were originally within the Resource Management Amendment Bill (No. 3), but because Parliament had insufficient time before it rose to pass this Bill in full, the most urgent amendments were split off into the Resource Management Bill (No. 4). The original Bill (in its modified form) has been reported back to the House and has been held over for the next Parliament to consider.

John Novis

New Zealand Pine User Guide

An updated version of the New Zealand Pine User Guide – the bible for anyone working with or using the timber both in New Zealand and overseas – is now out. A joint industry publication, the user guide is designed to ensure that both producers and users get full value from the timber by knowing how it should be treated and how it performs in a range of different uses.

Apart from improved presentation, the guide includes more information than its 1992 forerunner, and updates of all the original technical chapters, new performance tables, graphs and charts and sections to cater for the increasing diversity of application.

The Introduction notes the market trend towards the use of more engineered-type wood products and points out that alongside more complex uses is the need for “clear communication between manufacturers, distributor and customer to ensure the performance characteristics and wood properties of the product are used to best advantage”.

Sections

To help that process out, the guide includes details of anything anybody might ever want to know about pine under clearly defined headings. There are sections on the resource, log quality and conversion, lumber and grades, protection of wood, drying, preservation, finishing, staining and performance enhancement, machining, construction, gluing, lamination and finger-jointing, joinery and interior fittings, furniture and components, industrial uses, external uses, plywood and LVL, veneers and overlayered products, particle and medium density fibreboard.

The guide also takes into account the special needs and conditions of destination markets around the Asia Pacific – including relevant standards that apply in those markets.

Produced by the New Zealand Pine Remanufacturers Association in cooperation with the Forest Industries Council, Forest Owners’ Association, Trade Development Board, Ministry of Forestry and Forest Research Institute, the guide retails for $15 plus GST.

New timber precision industry

New Zealand Timber Scenes Ltd has introduced to New Zealand a new concept in computerised engraving which means that timber panels can now be etched and printed upon, almost as if they were made of paper or cardboard.

This process is dependent on an entirely new concept of laser engraver which is capable of handling quite large-scale objects such as timber frames and glassware.

The only engraving machines used by New Zealand Timber Scenes Ltd have only recently been introduced to the commercial world, and the Petone-based company was among the first, anywhere, to apply them.

At the heart of this new industry are a series of computers from Silicon Systems which control the various processes of the machine tools.

At the same time the Silicon Systems computers also handle all the administrative and database work handled by the new company.

“Our business is entirely dependent on visible quality,” explained James Pauson, Managing Director of New Zealand Timber Scenes Ltd.

“Silicon Systems demonstrated to us that they had the same quality objectives as we have, so we selected them as our systems suppliers.”

Meanwhile, Mr Pauson and company manager Stephen Chalmers are enthusiastic about having introduced a new precision industry to New Zealand.

“Naturally, there has been a great deal of interest in what we are doing in Petone. But I think we are going to be a great stimulus to the engraving industry as a whole. We are opening up new applications in the field, and everyone in it is going to benefit.”

A feature of the new Timber Scenes factory in Petone is visual observation via closed-circuit video of processes in all the computer-driven engraving machines.

At all times video screens show real-time developments, literally, at the cutting edge.

Another feature of this new approach to engraving represented by Timber Scenes is the ability to take images from photographs, even family snaps, and have them faithfully etched on wood, glass, or other materials.

The company’s clientele in its few weeks of existence now includes users in the industrial, political, and even household sphere.

Radiata pine.