

Southern Forestry flexes its muscle in research shake-down

A group of South Island research agencies and interested parties has been established to take over some of the work that may be discarded in a re-organisation by Rotorua-based Forest Research.

The group, which involves the School of Forestry at Canterbury University, Lincoln University and Landcare, as well as industry parties, has established itself under the umbrella Southern Forestry Research (SoFor). SoFor has also had discussions with the Forest Industry Council, the Forest Owners Association as well as the Farm Forestry Association.

FR has been reviewing its scientific focus, with discussions centred on moving funding from some areas of research to key areas at the top of the value chain that have been identified, including wood-based solutions for the building market and the new opportunities in carbon credit trading. The main focus was to provide what are described as consumer-based solutions in a move away from harvesting and log exports.

This has seen a question mark raised over research into areas like alternative species, indigenous forestry and montane forestry. A number of companies with interests in growing alternative and/or indigenous species, have also taken an interest in SoFor.

A spokesman for the group, Eoin Garden, a farm forester and Institute member of Miller's Flat, Otago, said a management committee has been established. Discussions had been held with the Foundations for Research Science and Technology (FORST) to gain a mutual understanding of each side's aims and objectives. As the Journal was going to press, FORST and FR were negotiating their way through the proposed changes and the future role of SoFor would depend on the outcome of those talks.

However, the SoFor has made it clear to FORST that the industry did not want certain key forest-based research areas terminated and would contest the funding for those areas if necessary.

Businesses Offered New On-line Computer services

A new computer service developed by Rotorua forest managers PF Olsen and Company Ltd will be

competing against the nation's best in the Computer World Excellence Awards.

The project, which involves linking one of the Fletcher Challenge Forests key supplier groups, Core Contracting Ltd, to PF Olsen's

continued on page 16

MAF Log Prices

The log prices shown in these tables are reported by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry for the September Quarter 1999.

MAF notes: 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.

Generic Log Type & Pricing Point	September 1999 Quarter	September 1999 12-Quarter Median
EXPORT (NZ\$ per JAS m³ f.o.b.)		
Pruned	167-186	211
Unpruned A Grade	94-112	111
Unpruned J Grade	71-85	87
Unpruned K Grade	78-89	82
Pulp	59-61	50
DOMESTIC (NZ\$ per tonne delivered at mill)		
P1	146-175	175
P2	96-160	136
S1	84-93	98
S2	78-89	88
L1 and L2	51-82	67
S3 and L3	43-65	65
Pulp	28-39	39

Generic Log Type and Pricing Point	Dec 98 Quarter	Mar 99 Quarter	Jun 99 Quarter	Sept 99 Quarter
EXPORT (NZ\$ per JAS m³ f.o.b.)				
Pruned	190-240	186-200	180-198	167-186
Unpruned A Grade	99-114	93-119	104-107	94-112
Unpruned J Grade	61-85	78-89	70-89	71-85
Unpruned K Grade	53-87	52-92	72-83	78-89
Pulp	41-48	47-54	54-62	59-61
DOMESTIC (NZ\$ per tonne delivered at mill)				
P1	147-183	134-180	145-180	146-175
P2	115-183	112-130	108-145	96-160
S1	79-117	75-117	90-101	84-93
S2	71-100	71-97	78-90	78-89
L1 and L2	65-75	50-72	52-86	51-82
S3 and L3	56-79	56-80	45-62	43-65
Pulp	30-40	27-39	28-39	28-39