

ITT Rayonier buys most of NZ Timberlands

In late April 1992 the Government sold most of New Zealand's "leftover" state exotic forests, netting \$366 million for a cutting rights deal with an American-based company after holding out on exotic forests managed by New Zealand Timberlands pending Treaty of Waitangi negotiations.

The sale, planned last Budget, involves 34 exotic forests covering 100,000 hectares, some of which will entail special cutting restrictions and management conditions for new custodian ITT Rayonier. The land is not included in the deal, and the company is

legally bound to replant unless the Crown approves some other use.

Timberlands was set up to manage exotic forests the previous Government could not sell. Some forests, including parts of Pureora, Aorangi and Ruatoria forests, were excluded from the deal because of environmental concerns or Maori grievances.

Rayonier owns four pulp and lumber mills internationally, plus a forest products subsidiary, managing more than 500,000 hectares of forestry in the United States for annual sales of \$US1 billion.

Last year Rayonier bought Kohitere forest near Levin from the Crown.

The General Manager of its New Zealand operation, Charles Margiotta, said the company had been looking for some years for more forestry tracts to become involved in long-term.

Changes in managerial lineup at Tasman

Changes in the managerial lineup at Tasman Forestry Limited, one of New Zealand's largest forestry companies, have been confirmed.

Public Relations Manager Jacquie Webby, releasing the changes, confirmed the resignations of former General Manager Forests, David Buckleigh, and Dennis Neilson, whose previous role was Director Marketing and Supply.

"Both Mr Neilson and Mr Buckleigh have elected to do consultancy work following many years' association with Tasman Forestry," said Miss Webby. "Their work will include assignments with us and other Fletcher Challenge related companies," she said.

The managerial lineup at Tasman Forestry sees the creation of new positions, including the splitting of North and South Island Forest operations.

Erle Robinson, previously manager of Hikurangi Forest Farms, a Tasman Forestry joint venture near Gisborne, becomes General Manager North Island Operations, whilst Lawrie Halkett, previously Forests Manager Nelson, will hold the South Island General Manager's role in an acting capacity.

Paul Christie, previously head of Logging and Transport, becomes General Manager Distribution, and David New, previously Market Development, becomes Technical Manager.

General Sales Manager, Adrian Gray, joins Tasman Forestry from McMillan Bloedel in Canada, although he began his career with Fletcher Wood Panels. Completing the Marketing Division lineup, Bill McCallum (previously Logging Manager, Bay of Plenty) becomes Marketing Services Manager.

The positions of General Manager Planning and Development (Mark Bogle), Finance Systems Manager (Mark Harris) and Employee Relations Manager (Alan Jones) remain unchanged.

THE NEW ZEALAND SCHOOL OF FORESTRY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY

G.B Sweet *

Changes to student numbers over time can reflect both current politico-economic issues and the health of an institution. School of Forestry student numbers over the past seven years have reflected both. The changes are well shown by the table below.

Year	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
No. of students							
Year 2* B.For.Sc.	33	34	27	13	14	12	28
Postgraduate	7	15	18	24	28	35	49

* Year 2 of the Bachelor's degree is the first year at which students come into the School to take professional forestry courses.

Two things are significant:

Firstly, the major decline in the number of new undergraduates, which began when the NZ Forest Service was disestablished in 1987, appears to have ended. The downturn started with the loss of Forest Service-sponsored students, and continued with the increasing public perception that there were no jobs in forestry. The decline appears to have bottomed out in 1991 (1990 entry to university) and to have sharply reversed in 1992 (1991 entry to university). The 1992 upturn appears to be correlated with an increased public perception of the importance of forestry to the economy and environment of New Zealand and the rest of the world. The Government, the companies and the profession have contributed significantly to this.

The postgraduate student numbers, in contrast, have climbed steadily since 1986, reflecting the increased emphasis on research at the School. Of the 49 postgraduate students in 1992, 35 are undertaking research, 22 at the Masters level and 13 at the Ph.D level. The major subject areas of research are: Management (10 students); Physiology and Genetic Improvement (10); Ecology and Conservation (8); and Wood Science (4). The 14 non-research students are taking courses at the Masterate or Diploma level this year. A satisfying feature of the current postgraduate numbers is that half are New Zealand students, and half are from overseas.

In 1990 a new first-year forestry course (Forests and Societies) was initiated and this is available to students of all Faculties at the University. In 1992 it has also been offered extramurally. The increase in student numbers, from 78 in its first year, through 142 in 1991, to around 220 this year indicates an increasing number of students who are obtaining some knowledge of forestry in the course of their other studies.

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