



### 'The Forestry Sector in New Zealand'

This book, published by the Policy Division of the NZ Ministry of Forestry, is a revised and updated version of an earlier 1980 publication from NZ Forest Service. It is a welcome and timely answer to those who constantly repeat the claims that the forestry sector has done little or nothing about marketing even though the wood harvest is about to double in the next few years. In no way is forestry another "Think Big" disaster. There are currently some problems in the "Achilles heel" of the forestry sector – sawn timber – but for the rest of the industry, especially the forest growers exporting logs, there are no current or perceived shortages of market outlets.

This publication includes the most recent and most comprehensive projections of future yields from New Zealand's plantations. The earlier forecast of Elliott and Levack (1981) now appears to be somewhat optimistic. For the period up to the year 2005 the latest projections lag about three years behind the earlier projections. New Zealand's harvest is expected to reach 20 million m<sup>3</sup> by about the year 2003 and not around 2000 as forecast earlier. Claims that New Zealand's current 10 million m<sup>3</sup> harvest is just about to double are therefore completely without foundation. The harvest level after the year 2005 is very dependent upon the current rates of new planting. If new planting now ceases, then the harvest will level out at about 25 million m<sup>3</sup> by the year 2020. If the rate of new planting continues at the high level of the first half of the 1980s (around 50,000 hectares/year) then the future harvest could reach over 40 million m<sup>3</sup> by the year 2020. (The publication also gives projections broken down by the forest planning regions of New Zealand.)

Will there be a market for all this wood? This report summarizes the opportunities as follows:-

- The New Zealand domestic market (currently equivalent to about 6 million m<sup>3</sup>) is unlikely to grow by more than about 10% by the year 2000.
- New Zealand is a very small producer by world standards (even by the year 2000 New Zealand will still be producing less than 1% of the world's industrial wood).
- Recent studies suggest that New Zealand should be able to sell most, if not

all, of the additional wood that could be harvested.

The research we have done in Tasman Forestry Ltd shows that there is little doubt there will be markets for all our wood. The key question is: "What should we do to ensure that our company and New Zealand achieves the greatest returns and benefits?"

This short, easily read, and well-presented publication is an excellent summary of the New Zealand forestry sector and its opportunities. It includes a concise and non-judgemental account of the changes in forestry administration resulting from the break-up of the old

New Zealand Forest Service and other government departments responsible for land administration. The publication summarizes key statistical information (often presenting it in graphical form). It therefore complements, rather than supplements, the other very good official publication, *Statistics of the Forest and Forest Industries of New Zealand*.

This publication goes a long way to combat some of the negative comments on the New Zealand forestry sector. As it provides an excellent introduction to, and summary of, the sector and its potential it would be an ideal hand-out for those frequent local and overseas requests for information on New Zealand forestry.

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### DSIR declares war on wasps

The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research has declared war on wasps.

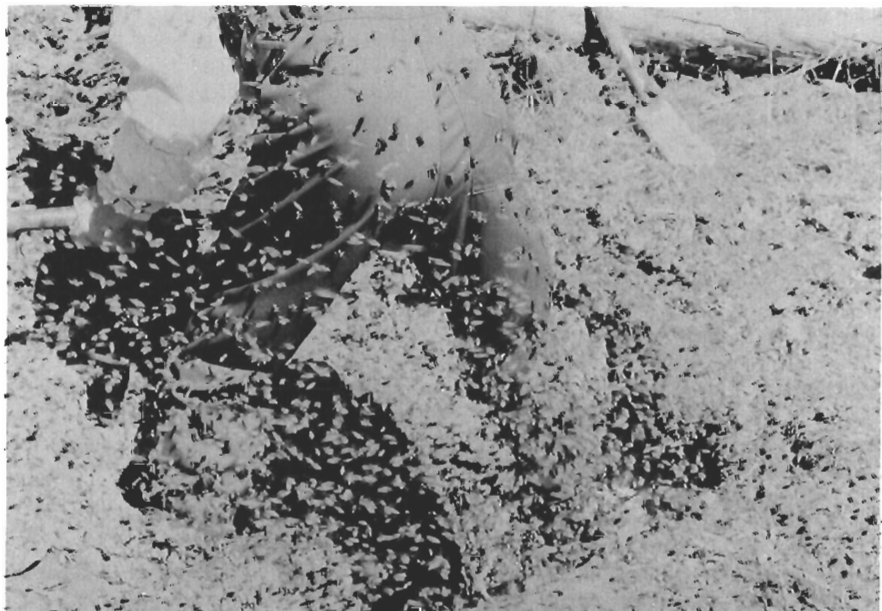
Wasps have always been regarded as a pest, but the arrival in New Zealand in recent years of a second species, the Common wasp or *Vespula vulgaris*, has caused a population explosion which could have serious consequences.

DSIR scientists are so concerned about the dangerous and disruptive effects of wasps they have introduced a parasite into New Zealand to feed on

wasp nests with the aim of reducing the number of wasps.

This biological control programme is already underway in the South Island and is about to be extended to the North Island if territorial authorities wish to contribute financially to the research.

A scientist at DSIR's Entomology Division at Lincoln, Dr Barry Donovan, who is in charge of the programme, said the traditional methods of controlling wasps using poisons, petrol or kerosene,



DSIR scientist Dr Barry Donovan under attack from wasps as he collects a large wasp nest at Kaituna Valley, Banks Peninsula.