



Comments from the President

SOME LESSONS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION DEBATE

One of the major lessons to emerge from the long and continuing Australian debate is that we must never compromise our professionalism in presenting our case.

For much of the debate the conservation lobby has been able to discredit the various State forestry organizations and industry for originally having considerably overstated the case for exotic plantations in Australia. Now the tables are being turned. It is the conservation lobby whose credibility is now being questioned. This is because they considerably understated the social and economic costs of reducing harvest levels in indigenous plantations and in the alternative plantation effort with indigenous species.

The Lesson

The lesson for us is that we must be very careful never to overstate or distort an argument for the sake of an early victory, for that victory may be short-lived and we might lose much more in the end.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT LAW REFORM

This exercise by the Department for the Environment in consensus democracy can hardly be regarded as a success. We had the opportunity to see the submissions of other groups and we came to the conclusion that they too had experienced the same troubles as we had in trying to determine exactly what was required. In theory one overall law should be better than several independent laws. In theory too, decisions should be made at the lowest possible level of Government. In practice, this may be much more difficult.

The Institute's submission was of a general nature only.

PRIVATIZATION OF THE FORESTRY CORPORATION

I am grateful to the many members who offered comments on the privatization question. As we might expect, no true consensus was possible. On the question of whether privatization should proceed there was a spectrum of opinion from those who pleaded for a return to the old Forest Service to those who wanted a complete sell off of the State asset in small parcels. The Institute could therefore take no stand on this question. However, some strategic issues did emerge. A clear majority of members expressed reservations against foreign ownership and control of our forests. Many members were also concerned that our forests might be bought by asset strippers who had no commitment to sustained yield management and replanting. Another area of concern was the possibility of strategic parcels being bought by foreign wood buyers for the purpose of future bargaining.

The treatment of NZ Forestry Corporation staff and the maintenance of public access were also areas of concern. The Government announcement that the forests could be sold separately from the land raised the whole question of lease agreements. The Institute argued that, should the Government proceed, it should avoid any system which results in a Canadian type solution. Evidence from Canada, especially British Columbia, has shown that forestry companies are very reluctant to invest in

forests over which Government retains considerable control and where these controls can be easily changed.

A submission along these lines was made to Treasury.

W.R.J. Sutton,
President

Changes in Membership

At the Council meeting of September 8, 1988 the following new members were accepted:

- C.I. Poulter (student)
- D.C. Cormack (student)
- M.A. Candish (student)
- T.W. Payn (student)
- A.L. Tyler (student)
- P.A.J. Hayes (student)
- A. Tilling (student)
- R.D. Green (reinstated as associate)
- K. Buck (student)
- C. Weir (student)

Advancements from Associate to Full Member were approved for:

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| G.N. Patching | D.M. Robinson |
| I.L. Currie | A.P. Wilkinson |
| J.M. Aitken | D. Hammond |
| R. Ballard | A. Peddie |
| H.A. McKeesick | P. Lavery |
| D.R. Nicolson | H. Aitken |

Advancement from Student to Associate:

I. Blake

The following resignations were accepted:

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| R.C. Ackland | I. Rennie |
| M. Calsaferrri | J.D. Rockell |
| R. Bagnall | M. Langford |
| A.G. Cornelius | R. Lloyd |
| D. Hemphill | G.H. Green |
| G.S. Mitchell | J.W. Goodwin |
| M. McLean | |

REVIEWERS

New Zealand Forestry would like to thank the following who have reviewed manuscripts published in the previous six issues:

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| J.D. Allen | A.E. Beveridge | E.M. Bilek |
| C.K.S. Chous | N.C. Clifton | R.E.J. Coker |
| J.D. Coleman | N.B. Comerford | R.J. Cooper |
| T.J. Cooper | D.J. Cowan | O. Cox |
| R.H. Donnelly | W.J. Dyke | W.F. Fieber |
| G.R. Fish | A. Gilchrist | J.C. Halkett |
| G.P. Horgan | D.S. Jackson | A. Katz |
| M.E. Lawrence | A.J. Leslie | H.H. Levack |
| J.P. Maclaren | I.J. McCracken | H.A.I. Madgwick |
| B.R. Manley | D.J. Mead | D.A. Norton |
| R. O'Reilly | J.P. Parkes | D.S.H. Preest |
| B. Rawley | J.S. Reid | D.A. Rook |
| W.R.J. Sutton | A.P. Thomson | A.J. Tilling |
| G.R. Sandlant | K.H. Schasching | I.D. Whiteside |
| G.M. Will | R. Woollons | D. Wigewardena |