

Budget 1994 : Increase in science funding

Government announced in the Budget that science funding will rise by \$12 million in 1994/95, \$25 million in 1995/96 and then \$40 million in 1996/97 – a combined total of \$77 million. The majority of the additional science funding will go to the PGSF – \$8.7 million in 1994/95, \$13.5 million in 1995/96 and \$23.5 million in 1996/97 (see table below). The current PGSF funding level is \$275 million. The announced increase will take it to \$298.5 million in 1996/97 (i.e., an increase of nearly 9%).

The bulk of the extra PGSF funding will be applied to the high-priority outputs identified for increase in the 1992 Science Priority Statement (see table below). Forestry is identified as one of the high priority outputs.

The funding level for core competencies that were identified in the 1992 Science Priority Statement will receive between \$1 and \$1.8 million from the increased PGSF. These core competencies include scientific capabilities in taxonomy, palaeontology, ruminant physiology and indigenous forest management.

Forestry research (i.e. plantation and processing research) will receive a \$1.8 million increase in 1995/96. Currently the funding policy for forestry science research is to progressively increase the baseline of \$18.1 million in 1994/95 to \$19.7 million by 1997/98. The increase announced in the recent Budget will add another \$1.8 million to this baseline.

Environmental protection research will also receive a \$1.8 million increase in funding.

There will be a corresponding increase in the Non Specific Output Funding (NSOF) to CRIs (see table). This will help to alleviate specific and identifiable problems within CRIs such as maintaining core competencies in science areas which were either held or decreased in the 1992 priority statements.

A major new initiative in the Budget is the creation of the Basic Science Fund which is funded outside the PGSF. This will free up resources previously committed to basic science research and funded by PGSF for other uses. The newly created Basic Science Fund will have two objectives: to increase the flow of top-

flight researchers; and to underpin "targeted" strategic and applied research. The budget for 1995/96 will be \$4 million, rising to \$9 million in 1996/97. The fund

will be open to all individuals and providers on an equal basis.

Dennis Lee

'Management of Radiata Pine'

"Management of Radiata Pine" by N.B. Lewis and I.S. Ferguson, in association with W.R.J. Sutton (New Zealand), D.G.M. Donald (South Africa), H.B. Lisboa (Chile). Inkata Press: Melbourne and Sydney, Australia, 1993.

This book of over 400 pages is an ambitious attempt to document the extent of radiata pine in the southern hemisphere, its growth habits, markets, silviculture, wood products and management. Even in a book this long, it is not really possible to fulfil these aims comprehensively and it is very much to the authors' credit that they have generally persevered with that ideal. To some extent it succeeds and it will certainly be an invaluable addition to any forestry library, either institutional or personal, and I am sure I shall make regular use of my copy, despite a few limitations it appears to have. But more about this later.

This is not a book that could be regarded as a compelling read to be easily digested in two or three sittings. I see it more as a reference, than as a text book, one that can point inquiring readers in a number of very worthwhile directions. The book is divided up into six parts and 27 chapters. The parts are: introduction to the radiata pine resource; characteristics of the species; restraints on its productivity; stand management; forest management; the radiata pine sectors of Australia, Chile, New Zealand and South Africa and their future outlook. Some of the chapters are very short and none, in the space available, is as comprehensive in its treatment of any topic as readers might wish. But there is a wealth of very useful material that can be gleaned from what is presented, and that is one major reason why it will be a useful addition to any library.

Norm Lewis (I'm guessing it was he alone!) makes it clear in his preface that

this book is not an attempt to cover the same ground as C.W. Scott's monograph of 1960, nor, one can infer, Peter Lavery's 1986 monograph, Piers Maclaren's 1993 NZFRI Bulletin nor anything else of that ilk. Rather, it is intended to be a "distillation of the cumulative practical experience among radiata pine foresters, personally communicated". I wish it had been. But the authors bend over backwards to be fair in ascribing who said what first, what so and so's opinion is, and so on. If I could offer a suggestion to potential authors, it would be to avoid the clumsiness of referencing in the text, to provide as comprehensive a bibliography of important contributing material as possible at the end of each chapter and to present a personal view of each topic in a more free-flowing sequence of argument. The purists may

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well frown on such an approach, but I for one am becoming increasingly disenchanted with justifications based on what certain people may have written down somewhere at some time. It may be high time we technologists got back to basics and developed our own analytical thoughts and justifications instead of propping ourselves up with quotations from others. That is why I myself would have preferred to read about Lewis' and Ferguson's own considered views that have matured over their illustrious careers in Australian and international forestry rather than extracts from a compendium of selected references.

It is always interesting to see what one's colleagues quote in the way of references and even more revealing to contemplate what they omitted to cite. Chapter 23 by Wink Sutton on "The New Zealand Radiata Pine Sector" was of special interest to me, as it will be to New Zealand readers generally, in this regard. It probably takes years to transform a raw manuscript into a book of this form and it is no surprise that some data are not right up-to-date. But I looked in vain for guid-

	Increase Funding	High Priority PGSF Outputs	Core Competencies	NSOF	Forestry Research	Environment Protection
1994/95	\$12 m	\$8.7 m	\$7.4 m	\$1.0 m	\$0.3 m	n.a.
1995/96	\$25 m	\$13.5 m	\$10.8 m	\$1.8 m	\$0.9 m	\$1.8 m
1996/97	\$40 m	\$23.5 m	\$20.5 m	\$1.8 m	\$1.2 m	n.a.