

- Government complete the planting of 10,000 ha of special purpose timber species (by 2024) in South Westland south of the Waitaha River (to honour its 1981 quid pro quo compensation deal), or work out an alternative deal with the West Coast United (Regional) Council for satisfying the planting commitment;
- work out by December 31, 1991 acceptability and conditions for logging within wildlife corridors;
- immediately gazette proposals for reserves and wildlife corridors on State forest land;
- immediately establish the Paparoa National Park subject to
 - (a) preserving the right to develop the Pike River coal field
 - (b) meeting the needs of New Zealand Cement Holdings for limestone quarrying
 - (c) Government funding the establishment and maintenance of the National Park;
- allow continuation of mining operations within reserves;
- allocate to the Department of Conservation the balance of State forest land outside of production forest and specific reserve proposals;
- maintain access to gazetted reserves and the rest of the conservation estate for development of mineral, hydro-electric power and other resources with the consent of the responsible Minister, actual development being subject to economic value being shown to outweigh reservation values;
- manage Saltwater and North Okarito Forests as a single sustained yield podocarp working circle;
- identify Crown areas for reserve and production in South Westland south of the Cook River once the South Westland Management Evaluation Report was completed;
- maintain public access to publicly or privately managed West Coast Crown forests.

The strategy was promoted as (a) minimising social impact by making possible the continuation of all jobs as at 1986 in the timber industry, (b) providing additional jobs through the beech scheme, and (c) recognising that there would be some adverse environmental impacts which had been outweighed by the benefits of the new national park, reserves and wildlife corridors.

Unresolved issues

Not resolved in the High Court or the Court of Appeal are issues relating to production which only Government can settle. These issues are:

- Adequate podocarp resource was not allocated in South Westland south of the Cook River to make possible the sustaining of the South Westland allowable cut until the special purpose timber species become available in adequate quantity.
- Government has not provided for the previously agreed additional planting of exotics required in Buller and North Westland to make possible the transition from podocarps to exotics at the planned dates and maintain a commercially viable timber industry in those subregions at the levels set in 1986.
- Subsequent alteration of proven management prescriptions has thwarted the establishment of the sustained yield beech scheme in Buller/North Westland.

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First Maori/Crown lease forest to become totally Maori owned

Kawhia-based Tainui Kawhia Incorporated was in November 1997 the first Maori Incorporation to buy out the Crown's interest in a Maori lease forest. The Incorporation paid \$9 million for the Crown's 80% interest in this 1000 ha forest situated on the sand dunes by Kawhia harbour. It was planted in the 1970s.

The Incorporation financed the buy-out of the Crown by on-selling the trees to Rayonier New Zealand. The Incorporation will own the second crop outright after Rayonier replant the forest after harvesting.

The forest is one of 21 Crown lease forests involving 52,500 ha established

by the Crown with Maori owners.

MDF plant expands

Nelson Pine Industries Ltd commissioned a third production line at its Richmond medium density fibreboard plant in November 1997. It increases output from 200,000 to 350,000 m³ and increases log demand to 700,000 tonnes per year. Nelson Pine Industries Ltd is the largest single-site producer of MDF in the world. The company is wholly owned by Sumitomo Forestry Company Ltd of Tokyo, so most of the output will go to Japan.