

NZIF CONFERENCE: Future processing and exporting opportunities for forest products

The 2001 NZIF conference will delve deeper into the capital and infrastructure requirements associated with processing the imminent increase in the country's log harvests. The two-day event kicks off with NZIF's 2001 AGM on the afternoon of Sunday, May 6. A single-day conference on Monday, May 7 will be followed by a Field Day on Tuesday, May 8.

A specific objective of the Conference is to define the financial and political framework that would enable New Zealand to optimise returns from the increased harvests. A 'course of action' for the industry to follow is being called for as one result of the Conference's deliberations.

One feature of special interest will be the Conference's focus on the Northland peninsula. That region is set to face the 'wave of wood' more quickly and more sharply than any other in the country. Harvests will double then treble in approximately five and ten years, respectively. Conference presentations will include forest companies involved in new processing initiatives and the Northland Regional Council, each describing their plans to meet the challenge.

Barry Poole said the size and nature of the increase in predicted harvest over the next decade varies around the country. Although there is no region where the harvest increase is not substantial, Northland offers a real challenge.

"It will be interesting to bring together foresters and processors with, amongst others, local government, economists

and international bankers, to review how the provision of processing facilities is progressing and to pinpoint any apparent shortfalls," said Mr Poole.

The Minister of Forestry, the Hon Pete Hodgson, will present the concluding address, and in so doing, is expected to update delegates with the Government's evolving policies and intentions with regard to forestry.

NZIF President, Peter Berg, is enthusiastic and commends the Conference to all members. "New forests have the potential to quickly double and within a decade or two treble the total harvest volume. The challenge is to optimise the benefits from this massive increase and to make New Zealand wealthy."

Peter Berg said the Institute's conference would focus attention on the scale of the opportunity the expanding harvests represent.

The AGM and Conference will be held at the Stamford Plaza Hotel, Auckland. Institute members are encouraged to register now. That can be done by completing registration forms which are being posted individually; or by contacting Event Mergers at phone 09 420 5035; eventmergers@xtra.co.nz; or post at Box 44, Kaukapakapa, Auckland.

Further information:

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Processing the wood from the trees



The Honourable
Pete Hodgson
Minister of Forestry

"Processing is acknowledged as the forest industry's exciting 'Future Opportunity'. The industry will canvass this opportunity and review how it can be turned to best advantage at this years NZIF Annual Conference and associated Field Day.

Speakers include: Minister of Forestry - The Honourable Pete Hodgson, Investment Banker - Andy Wiltshire, Northland Regional Council - General Manager Warren MacLennan and other quality contributors from the NZ Dairy Board and forest and processing companies.

NZIF Annual Conference, Stamford Plaza, Auckland, 6-8th May, 2001

- All NZIF members will receive Registration Forms by post in February. Help your organisers by registering promptly.

For conference information please contact Carlene Marshall, Event Mergers, PO Box 44, Kaukapakapa, Auckland 1250. Ph/Fax 09-4205035 email eventmergers@xtra.co.nz



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