

# Implementing a Wood First Policy

## The Rotorua Experience

- The Rotorua Wood First idea was first mooted in 2011. Considerable work was carried out
- Our strongest supporters were council staff
- Some progress, (Eat Street example)
- At that time it was not formalised into Council Policy
- New Council Elected in 2013 – Fresh Resolve – Mayor a strong supporter

# Eat Street – A Show Piece for Wood



# Mayoral Hosted Workshop May 2014

## ROTORUA DISTRICT COUNCIL

Wood First 2014- First Workshop To be held at Rotorua District Council  
Offices

11.00am – 1.00pm Monday 19 May, followed by a light lunch

## AGENDA

1. Introduction from Mayor Steve Chadwick..... etc

# From that Workshop a Policy Was Derived

*SHAPING A WOOD FIRST POLICY*

*FOR ROTORUA DISTRICT COUNCIL*

*2014*

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# The Workshop Agreed to Support a Paper Outlining the Rationale for - and Shape of - a Wood First Policy for Rotorua

1	Rotorua
2	The Central North Island Forest Industry (CNI)
3	Drivers for Change
4	Wood First
5	Barriers to Wood Processing Investment
6	Recommended Wood First Actions and Prioritisation
7	Summary

# 1. Rotorua

*Rotorua is the “fatherland” of plantation forestry. The concept of growing trees in plantations as renewable crops was conceived of and developed in Rotorua in the early 1900’s. It was refined at the State Owned Forest Research Institute in the mid 1900’s. Throughout most of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Rotorua led the world in development of plantation forestry science and now much of the world has followed our lead.*

### 3. *Drivers for Change*

#### *Domestic examples:*

- *Affordable housing shortage/crisis....*
- *Growing role of Maori in forestry.....*
- *Log Export Volumes.....*
- *Seismic proofing our homes.....*
- *A local, sustainable product (v's .....)*
- *The market is insatiable for wood.....*

### *3. Drivers for Change*

#### *Global examples:*

- *Climate Change and Carbon sequestration....*
- *Renewable, natural product, indefinitely.....*
- *Energy efficiency.....*
- *Soil and Water conservation and quality.....*
- *Recreation.....*

## *5. Barriers to Investment*

- *Identifies those that Rotorua Lakes Council can actually influence and addresses these. e.g.*
  - *Domestic wood usage*
  - *A good environment for investment in trees and processing*
  - *Building specifications and consenting*
  - *User friendly staff*

## 6. “Ranked” Recommendations for the RLC Wood First Policy

	Project Description	Ranking
1.	Lead by example by publicly establishing a “Wood First” Brand/Policy for others to follow. Council is making a bold statement of having confidence in wood to serve its own and its constituent’s needs, going forward and inviting others to follow its lead. Promulgate the reasons for Council’s decision to take this bold step. (The British Columbian “Why Use Wood” rationale)	AA
2.	Establish a task force to investigate realistic policy and planning changes that could be taken to encourage wood processing investment into the area. Terms of reference for the task force to include relief from Development Contribution Levies and Rating as well as the practicalities of establishing special investment “zoning” (Look to overseas examples of how it may be done)	AA
3.	Establish an in-house Wood Help Desk role. The role would encapsulate advice and assistance to external designers, engineers, developers, builders and home owners; as well as internal consents staff and building project managers. The overall goal is to make the use of wood options easy for key decision makers.	AA
4.	Require a wood option to be designed and quoted for all of Council’s own building undertakings. This will require council staff, who manages wood-based building projects, to understand their product and how to make it fit for purpose for any given application. Without this knowledge wood will suffer damage to its reputation because of poor management.	A
5.	Use the Council buildings as showpieces for wood. (EAT STREET example)	A
6.	Lobby Central Government for the re-establishment of a Ministry of Forests and for it to be domiciled at Rotorua	B
7.	Public recognition of the wood champions in the community, such as sponsoring an annual Chamber of Commerce business award for the best wood based business or wood contribution, etc.	B
8.	Sponsor Timber building design competitions	B
9.	Set up Sister City relationships with selected overseas cities to promote trade and investment opportunities	B
10.	Support/make submissions on relevant central Government policy issues such as AOG purchasing, carbon trading, etc	B
11.	Help set favourable and clear standards for wood by getting involved with the wood industry and national standards authorities	C
12.	Sponsor study exchanges between NZ and other Wood First advocates such as British Columbian Government agencies	C
13.	Become involved with Green Buildings in a promotional capacity	C

# Summary

Wood First is about

*“creating a culture for wood”*

Thank you

*Questions?*

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