

NZ FOREST & WOOD SECTOR FORUM

5 November 2020

To the incoming Minister of Forestry
From the NZ Forest and Wood Sector Forum

Dear Hon. Stuart Nash

Congratulations on your appointment, and welcome to the Forest and Wood Products sector. You have taken on a challenging role at a critical time, and we hope you get all of the Cabinet support you need to make it a success.

Our sector is complex and deeply interconnected with farming, biosecurity, manufacturing and trade. The sector and your portfolio interests have an obvious and arguably critical contribution to make to delivering the “Roadmap For Action” featured in the NZ Herald (3/11/2020).

The forestry and wood processing sector is represented by a number of organisations, many of whom will have already sent you background papers on sectoral threats and opportunities, land use and climate change. They all have serious points of view. The Forest and Wood Sector Forum is an informal collection of several such groups who aim to reach consensus and collectively respond to the larger issues.

NZFWSF are also aware you have received numerous perspectives on aspects of the forestry sector. Rather than risking offering repetitive or conflicting advice, our interest in communicating with you is to emphasise that:

- The forestry and wood manufacturing sector can collectively contribute significantly in delivering many of NZ’s aspirations including improved water quality, export receipts, low emission and bio-circular materials and safe, high-value regional employment.
- Deriving the optimal range of benefits for NZ’s forestry sector requires the deliberate consideration of a wide range of seemingly disparate issues. It is directly and indirectly affected by the direction set in portfolios other than forestry including Environment, Trade, Manufacturing, Climate and Workplace Safety and requires clear oversight from the Forestry Minister.
- NZFWSF is an effort by the whole of industry to identify and encompass the full range of considerations and a possible model for the way in which Government could manage its forestry and regional manufacturing interests. It is a forum where various views can be openly discussed and heard in a relaxed environment and agreements reached.

As you know the last Government made a good start on a zero-carbon future. This Government will not only need to continue that work, but also rebuild the economy post-Covid 19.

We'd welcome the opportunity to talk to you, but perhaps more importantly we believe it's time for an industry summit where you and your officials can meet all of the key parties, exchange views, and allow us together to discuss and agree a plan for the next 10 years. It has been decades since this approach was last tried. Now we're the Team of 5 Million we believe we should try it again.

Nga mihi
Members of the NZFWSF

The New Zealand Forest and Wood Sector Forum is a collective of New Zealand forestry sector representatives. Acting as a point of contact for Government and other relevant bodies, the Forum aims to engage on issues of common interest to the sector.

