

December 2023

WPMA Member Newsletter

With the new coalition government now in place work has started on implementation of the Agreements core priorities. Outlined within this member update is the core priorities of interest to WPMA members. The 'Stop Work' notice on all the ITPs means spending has ceased for the interim, though it is expected that core components of the Forestry and Wood Processing ITP will continue in a new format. We will keep you updated as we know more.

Items covered in this member only newsletter are:

- New WPMA strategy approved by the Board
- Coalition Agreement summary for WPMA members
- Pan Sector Group
- Joint WPMA and NZFOA Board meeting March 2024
- Briefing for the new Minister
- EU Deforestation Regulation
- Field Days 2024 – WPMA presence
- Wood Processing Growth Fund

New WPMA Strategy Approved by the Board

Our strategy has been refreshed to better reflect WPMA's core priorities and high-level activities. The strategy priorities are linked to our annual Business Plan, which outlines in detail as to actions to achieve the priorities and how these will be measured. Our activities, such as board meetings, will also be linked back to the strategy to ensure that we remain focussed on our purpose of delivering beneficial solutions that provide value for members. As a membership driven organisation, we must put members first when planning our activities and expressing WPMA viewpoints. Hence, the refreshed strategy is purposefully member focussed as to what future success will look like for our organisation. You can view the new WPMA strategy [here](#)

Coalition Agreements summary

A summary of the core coalition Agreements points 'of interest' to WPMA members has been prepared [as attached](#). Noting that the Government action has commenced, with the Fair Pay Agreement, for example, already stopped. On the Forestry and Wood Processing ITP front it is more than likely priority activities will continue, but under a new branding.

Peak Sector Group meeting 4 December – new Minister for Forestry to attend

The newly established NZ Forest & Wood Sector Forum will be meeting on Monday 4 December, with the new Minister of Forestry, Todd McClay in attendance for part of the meeting. The pan sector forum represents 10 industry organisations. It has been established to provide for the Sector Associations to engage on issues of common interest or concern to the national industry and, where appropriate, to act as a spokesperson and point of contact for the industry with Government and other relevant bodies. The Forum is aimed at improving communication throughout the supply chain to ensure continued growth and ensure issues are managed with the interest of the whole sector in mind, on the basis it is socially responsible, environmentally, and ecologically sustainable, internationally competitive and profitable.

Joint WPMA and NZFOA Board meeting

A joint board meeting between WPMA and NZFOA has been set for Wednesday 20 March 2024. Given the importance of building a collaborative working relationship with NZFOA, the joint meeting is very positive and can only assist in furthering our relationship building. The need to work closely with NZFOA has been identified as a core priority for WPMA. On the secretariat side the CEOs of WPMA and NZFOA are meeting in person at a minimum of a fortnightly basis to discuss top of mind activities, share information and explore opportunities for industry growth.

Briefings for new Government

To ensure that a new Minister(s) are aware of our core priorities, three relative briefings have been prepared and sent to the relative Ministers. The Briefings are via WPMA, the Manufacturing Alliance, and an across sector forestry and wood processing briefing from the Peak Sector group. The WPMA Briefing is [attached here](#). The WPMA briefing has been prepared to highlight our core priorities and identification of opportunities for growth within our sector. The priorities highlighted have been collated based on current WPMA activity, member feedback and future opportunities. Noting that the Briefing is not inclusive of all our activities, rather those that are regarded as requiring the attention and support of a new government.

European Deforestation Regulations – exported wood to the EU

WPMA has established a Special Interest Group for engagement on the EU Deforestation Regulation. The EUDR aims to reduce the EU's contribution to global deforestation by banning the sale of specific products associated with deforestation (beef, cocoa, coffee, palm oil, rubber, soya and **wood**). From December 2024, EU and non-EU producers must provide geolocation coordinates for the places of production for all products in scope of the regulation to demonstrate that they were not produced on land deforested since 31 December 2020 (or did not contribute to forest degradation).

WPMA continues to engage closely with our officials and others as to the latest actions and will prepare a briefing on the latest news prior to Christmas. If you would like to be on the EUDR Special Interest Group, please contact jeanette@wpma.org.nz

Field Days - Mystery Creek 12 to 15 June 2024

The Forestry hub site for the 2024 Mystery Creek Field Days has been confirmed. The Field Days runs from the Wednesday 12 to Saturday 15 June and will be aimed at future opportunities for forestry and wood processing. WPMA has agreed to having a stand within the Forestry Hub. MPI are overseeing the main costs and organisation. The main benefits of WPMA attending will be promotion for the wood processing and manufacturing sectors and WPMA, network development, member support, and the opportunity to sign up new members.

If you would like to assist or be part of the WPMA Field Day stand, please contact jeanette@wpma.org.nz

Wood Processing Growth Fund (WPGF) - [Wood Processing Growth Fund | NZ Government \(mpi.govt.nz\)](#)

The WPGF has been established to help wood processors diversify and increase production by providing investment support for a range of capital and capital-enabling activities.

Three funds are available:

- **Catalyst** - grants to support pre-investment activities – Round One was closed on 17 July 2023, Round Two is open early 2024 (date TBA), and Round Three is open midlate 2024 (date TBA).

- **Accelerator** - debt or equity investment in capital projects to expand processing. Round One was closed on 17 July 2023, Round Two and Three are open 2024 (dates TBA).
- **Te Kōtuku** - grants to help grow small scale processors that specialise in using nonpine trees to lift productivity and capacity and create more local jobs. The grants can be used to fund plant and equipment (capital projects). Up to \$500,000 each year, each grant minimum \$50,000. 50% co-funding (flexible). Open from 20 November 2023. Email: wpgf@mpi.govt.nz

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