

**December 2023**

### **Message from Mark**

Wellington appears to have taken on a new persona in the last few weeks, with the Government seeking action from its officials as part of the 100-day plan. Traditionally many MPs would have headed out of the Capital for their holiday break by this time, but instead the Beehive is buzzing with urgency right through until Christmas.

Early to mid-2024 will be when the various changes outlined in the Government's 100-day plan will take effect, with Budget 2024-25 telling us where future money will be spent. Wood Processing and Manufacturing appears to be in a good place, with Government indicating on-going support when it comes to encouraging sector growth.

To ensure the best outcomes for wood production it is great to have the 'coming together' of key industry organisations across forestry and wood processing. It is all about the opportunities and added value that can be generated for the good of the sector.

Being still recently new to the industry I value and thank you for all your support over my first few months at WPMA. I look forward to seeing you back in 2024.

Meri Kirihimete

Mark



### **Latest Situation and Outlook for the Primary Industry released**

A mixed forecast for the primary sector for the next 12 months was provided by Minister Todd MacClay, Hon Shane Jones and MPI's Ray Smith to industry representatives at this morning's latest SOPI launch. On a wood processing side although there is strong demand in the US for sawn timber, the declining Chinese market and other factors indicate a forecast drop in export income in the forestry and wood processing sectors for the next 12 months. With more favourable economic factors this is expected to be corrected in 2024/25. A full copy of the SOPI report can be found here: [SOPI report](#).

### **Industry Peak Group meet – Minister for Forestry priorities**

The initial full meeting of the Pan Sector Industry Group was held recently with new Forestry Minister, Todd McClay, taking time out of his busy diary to meet with the group and outline his core priorities. The three top ones being:

- Creating certainty for forestry and wood processing in meeting carbon reduction.
- Doubling exports by value over 10 years through increased market access, such as government support in aligning Australian/NZ standards for structural timber and providing opportunities for industry to be involved in trade delegations.
- Ensuring settings are right over time for tree planting, including the ETS.

Under the new Forest and Wood Sector ACCORD the peak group will meet in person on a quarterly basis, with the intention to continue engagement with the Minister and officials where possible.

### **Cushla Tangaere-Manuel appointed Forestry Spokesperson for the Labour Party**

Newcomer to Parliament Cushla Tangaere-Manuel has been appointed as the Labour Party spokesperson for Forestry. Tangere-Mauel is MP for Ikaroa-Rāwhiti and 34<sup>th</sup> on the Party List. Her background includes serving on boards for Kura Kaupapa Maori, Iwi radio and the NZ Amateur Sports Association, plus CEO of Ngati Porou East Coast Rugby Union. With her media skills she is also an advocate for whanau wellness, and has worked as a Kohanga Reo Kaiako, voluntary youth worker, and wananga facilitator across Aotearoa.



### **New WPMA strategy released**

Our strategy has been refreshed to better reflect WPMA's core priorities and high-level activities. As a membership driven organisation, we are focussed on supporting our 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](#)

### **WPMA Forestry Hub participation at Field Days 2024**

The Forestry hub site for the 2024 Mystery Creek Field Days has been confirmed. The Field Days run from the 12 to 15 June and the forestry hub will be aimed at future opportunities for forestry and wood processing. WPMA has committed to having a stand within the Forestry Hub. The benefits of WPMA attending will be promotion for the wood processing and manufacturing sectors and WPMA, network development, member support, and the opportunity to engage with the wider sector.



### **Long Life Harvested Wood products back on the agenda**

Following a short hiatus while the new Government was established, the MPI led project to develop options to recognise the delayed emissions benefit of long-lived harvested wood products has restarted. The Reference Group met yesterday to provide feedback on a draft report which outlines a number of options for discussion with Minister(s). Once the report has final sign off, there will be a process developed to share it more broadly.

### **Climate Change Commission final advice released**

The analysis from the Climate Change Commission in the recently released advice to the new Government highlights that New Zealand has made progress on reducing emissions, but as a nation we need to do more in a faster timeframe to meet the country's targets for the end of this decade. The Government has choices around the kinds of policy levers they can use to meet those targets. The important thing is that those reductions add up to deliver the emissions reductions we need to meet our immediate climate goals and keep the country on the path to net zero.

Between 2026–2030, the country needs to reduce its climate pollution by the equivalent of 43.5 megatonnes of carbon dioxide. Around 40% of the cuts are expected to come from energy and industry. From a wood processing and manufacturing perspective the embodied carbon in LLHWP should be included as a solution. The Government has until the end of 2024 to consider the advice, consult on policies to meet the country's emissions budgets and release the emissions reduction plan for 2026-2030. A summary of the report findings can be found [here](#)

### **Government 100-day action plan**

The new Government's 100-day Action Plan is underway and is aimed at rebuilding the economy, delivering tax relief, restoring law and order, and delivering better health, education, housing and infrastructure. Various Labour policies and regulation will be cancelled, with public sector Chief Executives told to start identifying back-office savings and report their spending on consultants. The full details on the 100-day plan can be found here <https://www.nzdoctor.co.nz/sites/default/files/2023-11/Coalition%20Government%20100%20Day%20Plan.pdf>



### **Te Pūkenga future under review**

The new Government's plan to disestablish Te Pūkenga is now being enacted. Managers are due to report back to Tertiary Education Minister Penny Simmonds this Friday on the first steps to restoring local leadership to its 16 polytechnics. Simmonds has indicated that she wants local management in place early next year, even if it was initially only on an interim basis. She expects local management would decide if the hundreds of redundancies Te Pūkenga had planned for April should go ahead. The new government is wanting to reintroduce industry training organisations (ITOs) but with stricter controls than in the past over what they could and could not do. Simmonds expects the sector would be stable by 2027. In the interim, current training programmes will continue.

### **Primary Production Select Committee announced**

The new Primary Production Select Committee has been announced, with ACT MP Mark Cameron appointed as Chair. The full committee first met on the 8 December and includes 3 National MPs, 2 Labour MPs (including Tangere-Manuel), 1 ACT MP and 1 Green MP. The full details on the Committee can be found here -

<https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/scl/primary-production/tab/mp>

### **In the media**

#### **New Directors for WPMA**

[https://www.wpma.org.nz/uploads/1/3/2/8/132870817/media\\_release\\_new\\_directors\\_for\\_wpma\\_23\\_nov\\_2023.pdf](https://www.wpma.org.nz/uploads/1/3/2/8/132870817/media_release_new_directors_for_wpma_23_nov_2023.pdf)

#### **Timber in construction pledge at COP 28 needs New Zealand buy in**

<https://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/BU2312/S00095/increased-timber-in-construction-commitment-pledged-at-cop28.htm#:~:text=The%20announcement%20reads%3A,forests%20in%20the%20built%20environment.>

The WPMA office will be closing for the Christmas and New Year period on 22 December and reopening on Monday 8 January.  
We wish you joyful and stress-free Christmas and New Year.



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