

INTRODUCTION

1

This is the 25th edition of *A National Exotic Forest Description* (NEFD). The report provides a detailed description of New Zealand's planted production forests as at 1 April 2008. It represents the net stocked area of the planted production forest estate; that is, all forests planted with the primary intention of producing wood or wood fibre.

New Zealand's forest resource description is published annually to assist with resource and policy planning. It provides data useful for government policy advice, to meet a range of international reporting obligations and to assist with infrastructure planning decisions. The information may also be a useful starting point for investigating wood processing opportunities in New Zealand.

The report provides:

- › an overview of New Zealand's planted forests;
- › a description of survey methods, sources of information and details on the reliability of the data;
- › statistical tables that describe New Zealand's planted forests area in detail;
- › forest activity data such as planting and harvesting statistics.

Much of the report's content consists of detailed tables that show the plantation forests' area by age class and territorial authority. This information is provided for key species. For radiata pine, the area by age class tables are also provided by silviculture regime.

The collection and publication of NEFD information is overseen by the NEFD Steering Committee – a forest industry committee with members nominated by the New Zealand Forest Owners Association and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) (see Appendix 3, page 60).

Each year the NEFD area database is compiled from a survey of forest owners and consultants who own or manage planted production forests. The yield table database is based on data provided by forest owners and managers of larger forests.

An electronic copy of this report is available on the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's website (www.maf.govt.nz). The tables from this electronic report can be downloaded as Microsoft Excel files.