

**Forest Industry Safety Council  
National Safety Director (NSD) Update 25 November 2015**

**Introduction**

FISC is an exciting prospect; the first true tri-partite industry lead body in New Zealand with the mandate to work in collaboration across the full plantation forestry sector, representing one voice in health and safety.

There have been many positive initiatives conducted within the industry and part of FISC's work will be to gather, evaluate and share these initiatives more broadly across the sector.

Engagement across the supply chain will be critical to our success and the involvement of government departments as leaders in health and safety, as well as supporting FISC is regarded as highly beneficial.

Our overall objective is zero fatalities and serious harm: Together towards zero. There is a real opportunity to work in partnership and embrace the new health and safety legislation as a way to think differently about achieving safe outcomes.

In delivering our objective we will also improve the overall public image of the forestry industry and raise our profile as an employer, and career, of choice.

**FISC Board members:**

- Dame Alison Paterson (Independent Chair)
- NZ Forest Owners Association: Peter Clark (CE of PF Olsen Ltd) & Warwick Foran (GM Crown Forestry)
- NZ Farm Forestry: Ian Jackson (Past President NZ Farm Forestry Association)
- Forest Industry Contractors' Association: Paul Olsen (MD of Olsen Forest Management and Vice-President of FICA) & Kevin Ihaka (MD of FPS Forestry and FICA Board Member)
- Worker Representatives: Neil Thomas (Forestsafes Ltd) and Wiremu Edmonds (Tuakiri Ltd)
- Union Representative: Robert Reid (General Secretary, First Union)
- WorkSafe NZ: Gordon MacDonald (CE WorkSafe NZ)
- ACC: Mark Armstrong (Head of Product Strategy & Workplace Safety)

**Progress to date:**

FISC is now fully established as a legal entity.

Fiona Ewing (National Safety Director) commenced fulltime in mid-October following industry induction and site visits in September. Jackie Delaney has been appointed as our Office Manager; there will be no other fulltime employees.

The Chair and NSDs induction included site visits, in some instances accompanied by other Board members, to the following regions:

- Otago
- Northland
- Taranaki

- Central NI
- Gisborne

Engagements have taken place with key stakeholders: FICA, NZFFA, Wood councils, WorkSafe NZ (including site visits), ACC and Log Transport Safety Council.

NSD visited the Rotorua area on 18 and 19 November to meet and speak with forest managers and contractors.

The intent remains that FISC will operate through co-ordination of various working groups to assist in developing and implementing an agreed Work Programme. The Programme, based on the recommendations of the IFSR and the subsequent government response, will form a framework to implement these recommendations while providing a platform for continuous improvement.

NSD will lead an Operations Advisory Group (OAG) that will develop and implement an agreed Programme as approved by the Board. The following key elements have been agreed as the framework for the Work Programme:

- Leadership
- Communication (Safetree™ [www.safetree.nz](http://www.safetree.nz) will form an integral part)
- Legislative reform
- Competency
- Performance Management (which will include 'IRIS').

These five key elements allow FISC to capture and prioritise the issues raised in the Independent Forestry Safety Review (IFSR) Report while creating a framework for continuous improvement.

The Programme will be operationalised and implemented via the OAG and Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs). The latter are in place for Legislative Reform, Competency and Performance Management; initial meetings have been held today for Legislative Reform and Competency and Performance Management is planned for early December.

Work is in progress to establish the Leadership and Communication TAGs in the near future and any nominations for these should be sent to the NSD.

Composition of the OAG and TAGs will be circulated once fully confirmed.

It is recognised that there should be some publicity, in the near future, in relation to the progress of FISC; this will be developed over the next ten days.



Fiona Ewing  
NSD FISC  
25 November 2015