

# Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

## What We Are Doing:

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's (MAF) work in the area of sustainable buildings includes the following.

Through the Forest Industry Development Agenda (FIDA), provision of seed funding for two chairs in timber building design at the Universities of Auckland and Canterbury. Professor Andy Buchanan has been appointed Professor of Timber Design at Canterbury, while recruitment for the Auckland position is under way.

Follow-up of BRANZ research that shows timber could potentially substitute for other non-renewable and energy intensive materials in 50 per cent of medium to large new buildings per year in the government sector in New Zealand. Substitution of wood in these cases would have wider climate change, environmental and economic benefits. Considerable additional benefits might also be captured by the substitution of coal for wood for heating and energy purposes in buildings. MAF is looking at ways to implement these findings by encouraging the wider use of wood in government-funded building projects.

The reason for MAF's interest in this area is because the forestry sector has an important part to play in meeting a number of the Government's key objectives, for example:

- economic and environmental contribution to the nation's wealth and wellbeing
- climate change mitigation
- limitation and prevention of water nitrification and soil erosion

## How to Contact us:

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