

**Media Release**  
**20 September 2024**

**Wood processors supportive of proposed Resource Management reform**

Mandating the processing of resource consents to within 1-year for wood processing facilities and related activities announced by Government this morning as part of the resource management reform proposals is welcomed by the Wood Processors and Manufacturers Association.

'In the current period of uncertainty due to escalating energy prices, it is encouraging to hear of the positive actions the government is proposing under the RMA reform to incentivise industry development, while at the same time safeguarding our environment' said wood processors and manufacturers Chief Executive, Mark Ross.

'We thank the Minister responsible for reform, Chris Bishop, and Act MP and parliamentary under-secretary Simon Court for listening to our members and providing the leadership needed to back future development of both new and existing wood processing facilities'.

'With examples of resource consent renewal taking up to 13 years and costing in excess of \$2 million due to the drawn-out regional council processes, a more efficient system is essential,' said Ross.

Wood processing investments are capital intensive and long lived. Once established the 'sunk cost' and "make good" implications can be considerable, meaning that much of the focus of our members has been on renewing and upgrading existing operations, with excessive cost and uncertainty resulting in less focus on new and innovative investments.

As a low net emissions industry, wood processing offers many public benefits, including being a high-value regional employer, adding value to commodities that are otherwise exported in raw form, along with providing domestic resilience in terms of the supply of building materials, residues for sustainable packaging and biofuel.

WPMA look forward to working alongside the resource management reform expert panel and officials to ensure that the new Resource Management settings are effective for incentivising future investment and growth within our industry.

**Media Contact:**

Mark Ross  
Chief Executive  
E: [Mark@wpma.org.nz](mailto:Mark@wpma.org.nz)  
M: 027 442 9965

**WPMA – who we are:**

The wood processors and manufacturers association is a voluntary industry association with a strong focus on wood as the heart of a future zero-carbon economy. Our members are located from Invercargill in the deep South to Kaitaia in the far North. They are leaders in the NZ wood industry converting harvested logs into a wide range of products including sawn lumber, pulp, paper, panels and engineered wood through to the development of bioenergy solutions. We see wood as the key resource to meet our 2050 zero-carbon target.