Industry transformation Plan

Over the next six months Te Uru Rākau will be hosting a series of workshops and meetings to gain feedback from people across the forestry and wood products supply chain on its Industry Transformation Plan (ITP).

An initial workshop at the end of October will ask stakeholders their views on what they see as the priorities for the growth and transformation of the forestry and wood processing sector over the short, medium and long-term.

Director of Sector Investment Jason Wilson who is leading the work said the workshops were an opportunity to gain feedback from across the sectors about what the priorities for transformation were.

Already MPI has announced through its Fit for a Better World Strategy that it will:

* Identify internationally competitive technologies, develop products and systems to better utilise wood by-products and enable a bio-economy
* Develop regional wood manufacturing cluster plans that enable investment in the sector and support a more competitive and economically resilient wood products industry
* Increase demand by establishing a Centre of Excellence for Timber Design to support greater use of wood in buildings in New Zealand.

So far, we have delivered the Wood Fibres Future report that has identified four high priority areas that New Zealand should focus on due to their impact and commercial potential. These are making biocrude oil, liquid biofuel and coal substitutes from wood biomass, as well as increasing the use of wood in the built environment.

The next stage of this work will look at how to make these opportunities a reality and is expected to be completed in mid-2021.

These technologies all represent opportunities to move New Zealand towards a high value low carbon future.

“We are actively seeking out opportunities that will be economically and environmentally transformative for the forestry and wood processing sectors and we want to hear from the sector about what they see as the right opportunities and priorities.”

Over the coming weeks Te Uru Rākau would be holding an initial workshop to scope the issues and opportunities for the Industry Transformation Plan to focus on. This will be followed by more targeted engagement over the coming months, including engagement with stakeholders including Māori, regional groups and representatives from the workforce.

In the meantime you can read the [Wood Fibre Futures Report](https://www.teururakau.govt.nz/news-and-resources/media-releases/big-opportunities-for-a-high-value-low-carbon-forestry-future/), or contact us at woodfibrefutures@mpi.govt.nz if you would like to be part of the survey or take part in our consultation.