

### Newsletter to Participants No. 8: October 2009

#### STIMBR AGM – Chair’s Annual Report

##### A year of formalisation and consolidation

- Incorporation of STIMBR 8<sup>th</sup> July 2008
- Management of fumigant levies by independent Levy Group
- Development of business plan and successful application for levy funding

##### Specific areas of progress.

##### Protecting methyl bromide use.

- Production of a significant paper detailing the forest industry’s use, economic relevance, strategy to reduce, and contribution to research, of methyl bromide, as a contribution to ERMA’s reassessment of the fumigant.
- Development of national monitoring protocols for application at major fumigation sites, to reassure communities of the fumigant’s safe use.
- Review of recapture, reuse, and destruction technologies relative to New Zealand operational conditions, to identify priority areas for further research and potential to scale up for large fumigations.

##### Strengthening phosphine as an alternative fumigant.

- Support for two further trials to provide data to Indian quarantine authorities in seeking approval for in-transit fumigation of logs.
- Consolidation of all trials and efficacy data relating to phosphine in support of its continued use for in-transit fumigation of logs to China and approval from India.
- Provision of additional laboratory efficacy data on the key quarantine insects Sirex and Arhopalus.
- Further trials of directly generated phosphine for disinfestation of sawn timber for export to Australia.

##### Development of non-fumigant strategies.

- Insect contaminant management, with particular reference to Arhopalus, using risk management/reduction focused on lighting, light traps, and on-site monitoring.
- Design of a major operational site trial of integrated risk management strategy.

### Education/media initiatives.

- Production of brochure and information campaign to protect the use of methyl bromide at Shakespeare Bay, Marlborough.
- Support for International Forest Biosecurity Conference in Rotorua through sponsorship of international speaker, provision of facilitator, and organisation of segment of field trip.
- Support for researcher attendance at Methyl Bromide Alternatives Conference in USA.
- Development of new website with both public and members only sections giving access to STIMBR documents, newsletters, and information on STIMBR.

### Funding of STIMBR.

- Successful application for levy funding of \$174,000
- Membership subscriptions of \$18,000
- Leveraged government funding of approximately \$280,000 (SFF, SMF and FIDA)
- Management costs of just \$21,000

### The future.

- Retention of existing members support, and recruitment of additional members.
- Agreed business plan for 2009 – 2010 progressing priority research projects, ensuring effective management and accountability, and ensuring STIMBR credibility in the methyl bromide debate.
- Ensure funding support from levy group by maintaining a strong focus on industry concerns and maintaining and extending leveraged funding.
- Development of a successful case for long term government funding for non-fumigant risk management strategy for export forest produce.

Gordon Hosking  
Chair STIMBR

16<sup>th</sup> September, 2009.

### Business plan for 2009-10 approved.

The business plan and associated budget as proposed by the STIMBR Management Committee was approved by the Annual General Meeting. The plan includes eight activity areas and associated funding of;

- governance and administration (\$32,000)
- methyl bromide recapture/destruction/reduced rates (\$23,000)
- alternative fumigants – phosphine (\$114,000)
- alternative fumigants – methyl iodide/ethyl formate/ethanedinitrile (\$20,000)
- fumigant dispersion monitoring (\$80,000)
- non-fumigant strategy (\$55,000)
- communication (\$23,000)
- funding (\$22,000)

The total budget of \$369,000 is made up of \$354,000 levy funds and \$15,000 membership fees.

The full business plan is available on the STIMBR website in the “members only” section.



## AGM Highlights

STIMBR's second AGM was held in Wellington on the 16<sup>th</sup> September.

### Confirmation of Management Committee and officers.

#### Management Committee:

Fumigant applicators and importers	- Mark Greenwood
Wood processors	- Peter Bodeker
Log exporters	- Peter Hill
Sawn timber exporters	- TBA
Importers and non-forestry exporters	- TBA
Forest owners	- Wei-Young Wang
Researchers	- Brian Richardson
Ports	- Grant Macvey

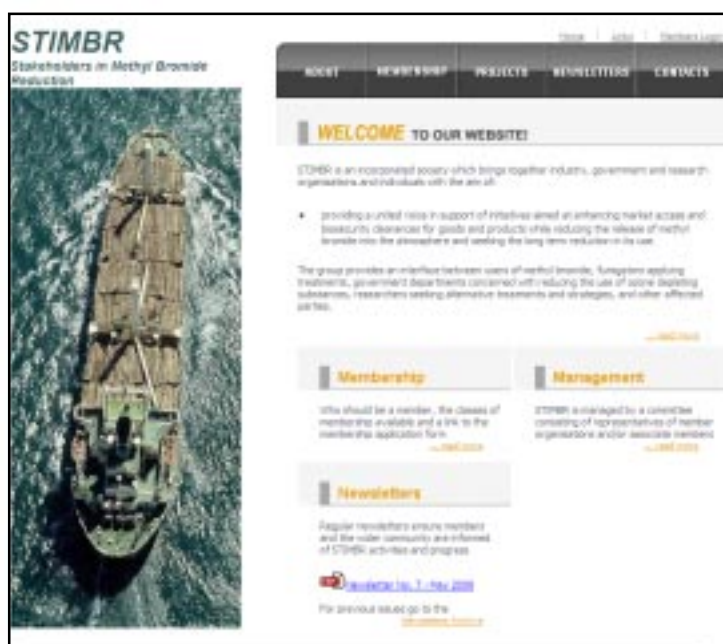
<b>Chair</b>	- Gordon Hosking
<b>Secretary</b>	- Cara Hunt
<b>Treasurer</b>	- Jay Matthes

#### Subscriptions

Both the organisational and associate membership fees remain unchanged at \$750 + GST and \$100 + GST respectively.

#### Government department membership

The chair noted that government departments had advised they would no longer be members of STIMBR but would seek observer status. This position relates to perceived conflict of interest and will be discussed further by the management committee.



### STIMBR launches new website

STIMBR's new website [www.stimbr.org.nz](http://www.stimbr.org.nz) went live just before the AGM. The site has public and member-only sections, the latter containing research reports, business plan, meeting minutes etc.

Newsletters, constitution, membership application and contact details are available in the public section. Members are urged to use the website as the first port of call for STIMBR information, projects, and activities.

## Fumigant monitoring workshop

Following the development and release of a national monitoring protocol for methyl bromide fumigations earlier in the year, STIMBR plans to sponsor a training workshop for those who will be applying the protocols at major fumigation sites such as ports.

The protocols were specifically designed for implementation by site staff or local contractors at reasonable cost. However, it is recognised that to ensure the consistency required across sites a hands-on training day is essential.

STIMBR intends to develop a national database as the repository of all monitoring data making it available for future research.



## Fumigation at Shakespeare

As part of STIMBR's communication strategy a carefully researched brochure (pictured below and available on our website) was released in the Marlborough region in mid September addressing the issue of methyl bromide fumigation at Shakespeare Bay.

The brochure outlines why its continued use is necessary while efforts are made develop alternative treatments. The brochure tackled the issues of human health, fumigant dispersion, safety measures, need for its use, and the economic implications of an unjustified ban.

STIMBR aims to make widely available scientifically based information on methyl bromide fumigation and the efforts being made to reduce its use.

**FUMIGATION & OUR ENVIRONMENT**

**Protecting your safety**

To protect the health of long-term pest control and the general public, methyl bromide is a highly regulated fumigant. It is used in a controlled environment and is subject to strict safety regulations. In addition, the fumigation community has a code of practice approved by the Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA).

ERMA is also monitoring the use of methyl bromide. The use will ensure the public is never in contact with the gas and is continuously monitored.

**Protecting the environment**

The fumigation industry works to protect the environment by using the lowest possible amount of gas. This is achieved by using the most efficient fumigation methods. The use of methyl bromide is also monitored by the Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA).

**We aim to be clean as well as green**

Because the Marlborough forest industry relies heavily on fumigation for pest control, it is essential to ensure that fumigation is used in a safe and effective manner. The fumigation industry is committed to using the most effective fumigation methods and to ensuring that the fumigation process is as safe as possible.

Although we are doing our best to ensure the most sustainable fumigation methods that are consistent with our safety standards, we will continue to explore alternative fumigation methods.

**In the meantime, we ensure...**

- Fumigation is carried out only by trained operators who have completed all relevant training.
- Monitoring of the fumigation process is carried out using highly sensitive instruments, ensuring that methyl bromide is used in a safe and effective manner.
- There is no residual methyl bromide left in the fumigation area after the fumigation process has been completed.

**The fumigation industry is committed to ensuring that fumigation is used in a safe and effective manner. The fumigation industry is committed to using the most effective fumigation methods and to ensuring that the fumigation process is as safe as possible.**

**FUMIGATION & OUR ENVIRONMENT**

Marlborough's forest industry thanks you for your patience.

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