

Mass and dimensions – where might we be heading?

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Topics

- What's happened about the truck study
- The bus study
- Forestry development
- The future
- A possible strategy



Truck study proposals 2000

All roads:

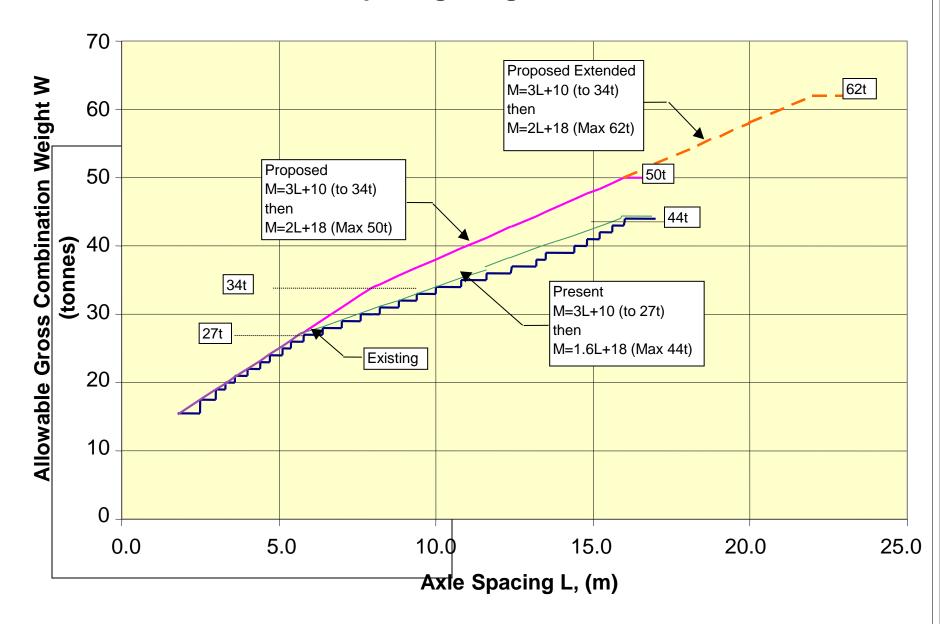
- Scenario A
- Higher axle mass limits on existing vehicles
- Some gross mass increases up to 50 tonnes

Selected routes:

- Scenario B
- New longer vehicles with higher gross mass limits up to 62 tonnes
- Roads would be upgraded first



Axle Spacing Weight Schedule



Some of the concerns raised I

- Modal shift and impact on other modes
- Environmental issues not fully considered
- Vehicle safety and performance
- Impact on cyclists, pedestrians, communities, and regional development
- Impact on local roads



Some of the concerns raised II

- Costs, benefits, and economic viability questioned
- Timing
- Legislation required to protect local roads
- Mass and route compliance unclear



Are trucks safe?



Photograph by Otago Daily Times

Can longer trucks fit?



Current MOT Investigations

- Extent of modal shift
- Review previous costs and benefits with new assumptions
- Assess new impacts
- Assess impact on other modes
- Implementation issues
- Review economic analysis
- Regulatory issues



Research on higher limits for buses

- Higher axle weights on all state highways
- Higher axle weights on longer buses in urban areas





Bus developments





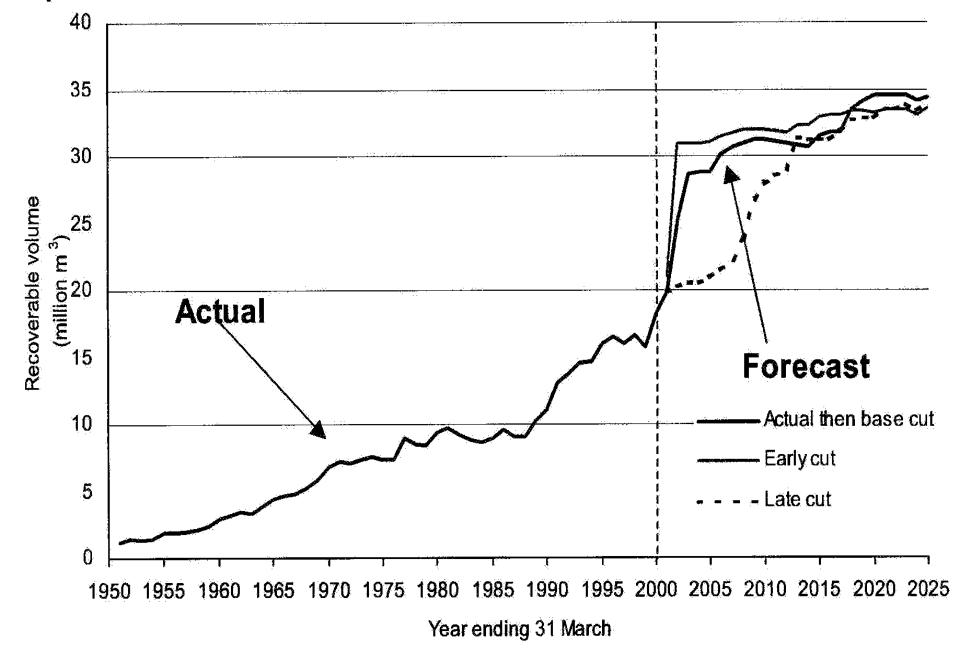
Log Transport Task

Rapid growth
650 log trucks in 1997
1,000 log trucks in 2001
3,000 log trucks within 5 to 10 years

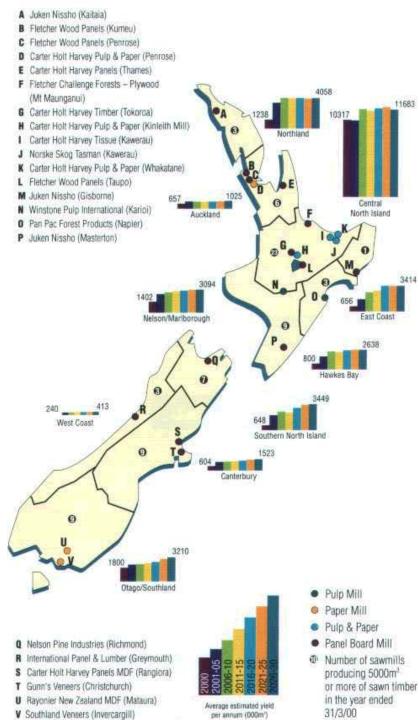
Extra travel almost all on public roads



Graph 1: Actual and Forecast Harvest from New Zealand's Planted Forests



Expected wood flows



3414

East Coast

2638



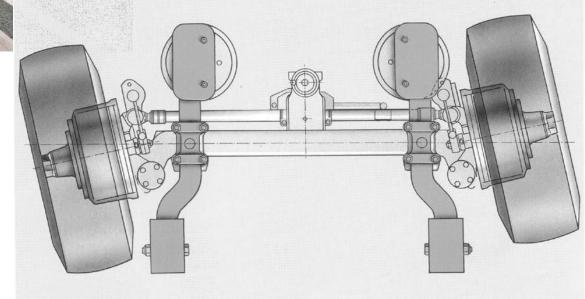
The future

- More log trucks on lower strength roads
- Concessions for inter-modal travel
- Higher axle loads on buses and coaches
- 22 m trucks (and maybe higher mass)
- Higher mass on quad axles
- Wide single tyres



Quad axle semi-trailers





X One tyre ranges.

Long haul in NA.



455/45R22.5 X One XDA & XTA

A possible strategy

- Develop safety compliance strategy
- Better industry performance → improve public perception of trucks
- ITS including smart vehicles with EPS etc
- Solve the 4th power riddle
- Use PBS to encourage innovation





Thank you for your attention

