

4 August 2015

## **BANZ Media Statement**

# **Bioenergy Cluster to assist address Canterbury air emissions**

The Bioenergy Association has welcomed the establishment of a Canterbury Bioenergy Cluster to help create green jobs and foster economic growth as well as address Christchurch's air emissions problems.

Mr Brian Cox, the Executive Officer of the Bioenergy Association said *"Canterbury has adequate biomass and organic municipal waste to produce all the heat it requires in Canterbury but the proposed air emissions policies are likely to limit Cantabrian's being able to achieve the economic and environmental benefits that could be achieved. With the establishment of the Bioenergy Cluster there is now a group of Industry Professionals able to participate in the discussions on policy options."*

*Wednesday July 22nd witnessed the first meeting of the newly formed Canterbury Bioenergy Cluster. Eighteen individuals from Christchurch and surrounds gathered in a follow up to the Bioenergy Association Conference held in Rotorua last month. This time however, regional issues were addressed with a view to increasing the uptake of Bioenergy in the Canterbury region.*

*In conjunction with Bioenergy Association this group was formed to allow greater collaboration between interested parties. Sam Lees of Canterbury Woodchip Supplies was pleased to see a real mix of people attend including boiler manufacturers, consultants, suppliers, forestry experts and Government representatives. Discussion flowed with topics ranging from current costings information availability for feasibility studies to Air Quality Regulations, and media relations following the recent article on Christchurch Hospital's use of coal.*

*Mr Cox said "Group members have taken the opportunity to put back into the industry by offering to follow up on what was discussed. BANZ will receive feedback from each of the sessions so it can be better informed on regional issues and how better regional policies can be developed. The group's formulation is a great coup for the Association. With a Cluster in each of the North and South Island now, we have greater strength and my ability to support members with their needs is greatly improved due to increased communications."*

*Mr Cox said that "New Zealand's regions produce significant quantities of resource that would otherwise go to waste, yet there are real opportunities to turn this into valuable products using appropriate technologies. As we move into a post petroleum era these resources are going to be valuable for the production of plastic substitutes, vehicle fuel and bio-based materials."*

*Mr Cox added, "Bioenergy is often based on well proven technology and so doesn't require research or low probability exploration such as for petroleum, but what it needs is facilitation so as to speed up growth of the market. The Bioenergy Cluster will provide the necessary stimulus".*

## Background

The Bioenergy Association:

- Mission Statement is “to promote the maximum utilisation of all forms of sustainable bioenergy in New Zealand”.
- Vision is that “Bioenergy in all its forms will supply more than 25% of the country’s energy needs, including 30% of the country’s transport fuels by 2040”.
- Has commissioned work by BERL which shows that the achievement of the vision above is worth around \$6billion annually to NZ  
<http://www.bioenergy.org.nz/documents/resource/OP16-BERL-report-to-BANZ-preliminary-EIA-of-NZ-Bioenergy-Strategy.pdf>

