

# PROGRAMME

## CONFERENCE 2025

### Management of Fire in our Forest and Rural Landscape

#### Dates

9th – 11th July 2025, Christchurch

#### Location

Haere-Roa, University of Canterbury, 90 Ilam Road, Ilam, Christchurch

#### Theme

Rebuilding the Connections with a Focus on Improving the Outcomes



### DAY ONE | 9 JULY 2025

Master of Ceremonies: Murray Dudfield

Session 1	3.00pm	<b>Opening Welcome</b>	Peter Dunne, Tāngata Matatau Chair
Session 2	3.15pm	<b>Governance Panel</b> Focus topic: <i>Have the 2017 reforms delivered better fire outcomes for our forest and rural stakeholders?</i> Followed by a Q&A session.	Session chaired by Sean McBride - Juken NZ <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Hon. Brooke van Velden - Minister of Internal Affairs</li><li>Rebecca Keoghan - Fire and Emergency NZ Chair</li><li>Paul James - Department of Internal Affairs Chief Executive</li><li>Kerry Gregory - Fire and Emergency NZ Chief Executive, National Commander</li></ul>
Session 3	4.15pm	<b>Keynote Speaker – Gordy Sachs, US Forest Service (via Zoom)</b> Focus topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>The January 2025 LA wildfires.</i></li><li><i>The USA Federal, State &amp; Local Authority structure for the management of fire in the forest and rural landscape</i></li><li><i>The work of the North America Fire Management Working Group</i></li><li><i>Improving the Outcomes</i></li><li><i>Coordination, collaboration, and cooperation between partnerships is a key to success.</i></li></ul>	Session chaired by Murray Dudfield
EVENT	5.00pm - 7.30pm	<b>ICE BREAKER FUNCTION</b> in the Exhibition Area	

<b>Session 4</b>	8.15am	<b>Keynote Speaker: Lara Steil FAO (via Zoom)</b> Focus topic: <i>Role and functions of the FAO Global Forest Fire Management Hub with a focus on improving outcomes.</i> Followed by a Q&A session.	Session chaired by Sam Keenan - Te Urua Rakau/NZ Forest Service
<b>Session 5</b>	9.00am	<b>Forestry Panel</b> Focus topic: <i>What risks and concerns are impacting the fire protection of our plantation forests?</i> Followed by a Q&A session.	Session chaired by Rob Schoonderwoerd - Rayonier Matariki Forests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jarron McInnes - Manulife Investment Management</li> <li>• Steve Chandler - Tasman Pine Forests</li> <li>• Alan Coyle - NZ Farm Forestry Association</li> </ul>
<b>BREAK</b>	10.00am	<b>MORNING TEA</b> in the Exhibition Area	
<b>Session 6</b>	10.30am	<b>Forest Fire Contractor Panel</b> Focus topic: <i>What role can contractors play in the management of fire in our forest and rural landscape?</i> Followed by a Q&A session.	Session chaired by Kevin Ihaka - Forest Protection Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evan Rarere - Timberlands</li> <li>• Warren Heslip - Heslip Forestry Contracting</li> <li>• Steph Rotarangi - Fire and Emergency NZ</li> </ul>
<b>Session 7</b>	11.30am	<b>Qualification and Training Delivery Panel</b> <i>NZQA Unit Standards Qualifications and its place for our forest and rural fire managers and firefighters.</i> Followed by a Q&A session.	Session chaired by Ian Reade - Rural Fire Network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kevin Ihaka - Forest Protection Services</li> <li>• Kevin Dyer - Fire and Emergency NZ</li> <li>• Fiona Hennessy - Te Uru Rakau/NZ Forest Service</li> <li>• Phil Nisbet - Fire Rescue &amp; Fire Response Ltd</li> </ul>
<b>BREAK</b>	12.30pm	<b>LUNCH</b> in the Exhibition Area	
<b>Session 8</b>	1.15pm	<b>Keynote Speaker: Tiago Oliveira</b> Chairman of the Board of Directors AGIF Portugal Focus topic: <i>Portugal's journey over the past decade in the management of fire in the forest and rural landscape.</i>	Session chaired by Murray Dudfield
<b>Session 9</b>	2.00pm	<b>Rural Fire Research Update</b>	Session chaired by Russell Dale - NZ Institute of Forestry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grant Pearce - Fire and Emergency NZ</li> <li>• Brendon Christensen - Dept. of Conservation</li> <li>• Shana Cross - SCION</li> </ul>
<b>BREAK</b>	3.00pm	<b>AFTERNOON TEA</b> in the Exhibition Area	
<b>Session 10</b>	3.30pm	<b>Volunteer Firefighters and their contribution to landscape wildfires</b> Focus topic: <i>What is the role of volunteer firefighters in preventing and managing landscape fires? What challenges do volunteer firefighters face when responding to landscape fires?</i> Followed by a Q&A session.	Session chaired by Bill Butzbach - UFBA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gary Morgan - Victoria, Australia</li> <li>• Howard Cole - UFBA</li> <li>• Tom Thomson - UFBA</li> <li>• Ryley Webster - Fire and Emergency NZ</li> </ul>
<b>Session 11</b>	4.30pm	<b>Aviation Resource Management Panel</b> Focus topic: <i>How can we get the best outcomes from the increasing spending on the use of aircraft during wildfires?</i> Followed by a Q&A session.	Session chaired by Alan Thompson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stephen Bishop - Fire and Emergency NZ</li> <li>• Scott McKenzie - Aviation Industry Assn.</li> <li>• Peter Houston - Manulife Investment Management</li> <li>• Paul Devlin - Christchurch City Council</li> </ul>
<b>EVENT</b>	5.30pm - 7.30pm	<b>NETWORKING SESSION</b> in Exhibition Area	

## DAY THREE | 11 JULY 2025

Master of Ceremonies: Bill Butzbach

Session 12	8.15am	<b>Keynote Speaker: Gavriil Xanthopoulos</b> - Greece Institute of Mediterranean Forest Ecosystems of the Hellenic Agricultural Organization (via Zoom) Focus topic: <i>Suppression Versus Prevention</i>	Session chaired by Kevin Ihaka - Forest Protection Services
Session 13	9.00am	<b>Partnership Engagement Panel</b> Focus topic: <i>What are the key elements to developing a successful partnership with key stakeholders in our forest and rural landscape?</i> Followed by a Q&A session.	Session chaired by Steph Rotarangi - Fire and Emergency NZ <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• David Birkett - Federated Farmers of NZ</li><li>• Shaun Truelock - OneFortyOne</li><li>• Jo Macpherson - Dept. of Conservation</li><li>• Piki Thomas - Fire and Emergency NZ</li></ul>
<b>BREAK</b>	10.00am	<b>MORNING TEA</b> in the Exhibition Area	
Session 14	10.30am	<b>The cost impacts for fire services to New Zealanders</b> <i>Lower Taxes / Less Waste / More Accountability</i>	Session chaired by Kevin Ihaka - Forest Protection Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jordan Williams - Executive Director &amp; Co-founder, Taxpayers Union</li></ul>
Session 15	11.15am	<b>Three Forest and Rural Fire Management Case Studies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Tanagoio &amp; Tikokino Wildfires 2020 Observations</i></li><li>• <i>Wetland Wildfire Losses</i></li></ul>	Session chaired by Brendan Gould - NZ Forest Owner Association <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Trevor Mitchell - Woodlands Fire Advisors</li><li>• Brendon Christensen - Dept. of Conservation</li></ul>
<b>BREAK</b>	12.00pm	<b>LUNCH</b> in the Exhibition Area	
Session 16	12.45pm	<b>Workshop</b> <i>What are the agreed <u>Tāngata Matatau</u> outcomes from this Conference?</i>	Session co-chaired by Murray Dudfield, Bill Butzbach, Kevin Ihaka and Alan Thompson
Session 17	2.00pm	<b>CLOSING REMARKS</b>	