

7 September 2020

Edward Grove

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Dear Mr Grove

Official Information Act request

Further to your recent email exchanges with Lynda Frew (Scion's Legal Counsel) I confirm your OIA requests to Scion for:

Information between 1992 and now, either received by Scion from third parties or written by Scion (either upon request by third parties or not and whether for internal or external purposes) which gives advice on any actual or potential causal link between the properties of Pinus radiata juvenile/core wood and residential building failure after building completion that has an adverse impact on the longevity and performance (including structural integrity) of the residential building (which may or may not impact on building weathertightness).

Information between 1987 and now, either received by Scion from third parties or written by Scion which in any way sought to influence communication by Scion (including its employees) regarding any actual or potential causal link between the properties of Pinus radiata juvenile /core wood and residential building failure after building completion that has an adverse impact on the longevity and performance (including structural integrity) of the residential building (which may or may not impact on building weathertightness).

The following relevant information has been found and is attached:

- Conference Paper "Need for further structural mechanics study on radiata pine wood properties" July 2004 (Scion Output Reference 14685805)
- Report "Visit to India, February 2005" (Scion Output Reference 15330836)

In order to provide you with further context in terms of the information you have requested, I note Lynda's email dated 13 July provided you with the following initial comments:

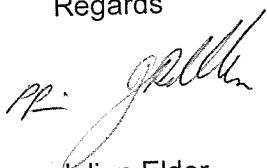
"... that most of our work has looked at the properties of juvenile / core Pinus radiata without necessarily linking those properties to building failure. Any building failure work appears to mainly relate to the building failure of structural building elements within the narrower definition of structural, that is we have limited/no work related to cladding, flashing or roofing elements. Likewise, Scion has looked at building failure where weathertightness may have also occurred, but Scion has not looked at weathertightness as a singular issue. You are probably aware that BRANZ has carried out more work than Scion in the area of building failure and weathertightness, and that MBIE's building performance group is active in this area."

Our search of Scion's records confirms those initial comments. Our search has also found our consideration of Pinus radiata properties rarely identifies the timber as juvenile / core. Generally in our work the properties of timber are discussed in relation to laboratory testing of durability and not linked to building failure (including failure of longevity or performance).

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Lynda Frew (Scion's Legal Counsel).

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julian Elder', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Julian Elder
CEO