

# Hon Shane Jones

Minister of Forestry

Associate Minister of Finance

Minister for Infrastructure

Associate Minister for State Owned Enterprises

Minister for Regional Economic Development

Associate Minister of Transport



14 October 2019

Michael Webster

Secretary of the Cabinet

Cabinet Office, Parliament Buildings

Wellington

CC Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern

Parliament Buildings

Wellington

Dear Michael –

The NZF Chief of Staff informed today that there is an application for PGF funding from New Zealand Future Forest Products Ltd being processed in the Provincial Development Unit. Brian Henry, the long-time lawyer of the NZF leader, and an acquaintance of mine, and his son David, are both directors of the company.

The Cabinet Office Manual (2.65) describes that when identifying conflicts of interests:

'A conflict may arise if people close to a Minister, such as Minister's family, whanau, or close associates, might derive, or be perceived as deriving, some personal, financial, or other benefit from a decision or action by the Minister or the government.'

Although I have the barest of relationships with Brian and David Henry it is prudent and appropriate for me to declare a conflict of interest in relation to the PGF application. I have had no visibility on the application, nor foreknowledge of its lodgement, until Chief of Staff, Jon Johansson, brought it to my attention this morning.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Shane Jones', written over the typed name.

Hon Shane Jones

Minister for Regional Economic Development

Parliament Buildings

Wellington