



Phytos Appoints Phil Taylor as Independent Chair (June 2026)

Phytos is pleased to announce the appointment of **Phil Taylor** as its new **Independent Chair**, effective July 2026.

Phil brings more than 45 years of distinguished leadership and governance experience in the New Zealand forest industry. He is currently Managing Director of Port Blakely Ltd, a role from which he will retire on 30 June 2026. He will continue his other governance commitments, including as Chairman of Te Papa Tipu Properties Ltd, Deputy Chair of the Forest Growers Levy Trust and Chairman of the Forest Shield project.

“Phil’s depth of industry knowledge, proven governance expertise, and strategic leadership make him the ideal person to chair Phytos,” said Brendan Gould – FOA Director of Biosecurity and Phytos Board member. “His extensive network and commitment to forest sector biosecurity and resilience will be invaluable as we advance our mission.”

Phytos also wishes to sincerely acknowledge the outstanding contribution of **outgoing Independent Chair, Don Hammond**. Don has been with the organisation since its inception and has provided exceptional leadership, dedication and strategic focus to both STIMBR and Phytos over many years. His guidance has been instrumental in establishing and growing the organisation and we are deeply grateful for his service.

“I am delighted to join Phytos as Independent Chair,” said Phil Taylor. “I want to thank Don Hammond for his tremendous leadership since the very beginning. I look forward to building on the strong foundation he has helped create and contributing to Phytos’ continued success at this important time for the industry.”

Phil has held numerous high-profile governance roles, including past President of the New Zealand Forest Owners Association (NZFOA) and Chair of several organisations such as Future Forest Research Ltd, the Radiata Pine Breeding Company and Otago Chipmill Ltd. He is a Fellow of the New Zealand Institute of Forestry (NZIF) and was awarded Forester of the Year in 2013. He recently completed the *Mā te kahukura ka rere te manu* course for effective governance of Crown entity boards.