




## Science and policy

REPORT  
OF THE  
ROYAL COMMISSION


Forestry being a science, and its practices an art, understandable only by technicians, it is undesirable that control of moneys to be expended upon the maintenance and protection of forests should be given to any person who, in forestry matters, is a layman.

The control of moneys in the manner which has been discussed is open to abuse. It admits of the expenditure of public money in a manner designed to advance an interest not connected with forestry. It admits of the subordination to that interest of the very important question of the safeguarding of our forests.



## Influencing policy


- Bureaucracy
- Publicity
- Inquiry
- Lobby



## The sources of science

- Departmental
- University
- Industry



## Research models


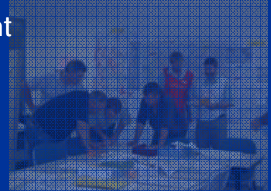
- Departmental
- Institutional
- Collaborative






## Departmental research

- Direct link to bureaucracy
- Research on demand
  - Relevant
  - Timely
- Less project dependent
- Access to resources
- Low turnover

## Departmental research

- Independence
- Questions set by policy
- Transparency
- Limitations on publishing and information
- Availability of expertise (low turnover)
- Experimental design




## Institutional research

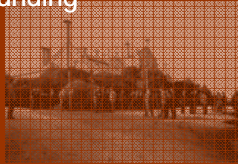
- Independent
- Multiple avenues to policy
- Heavy emphasis on publishing
- Media encouraged
- Role in education
- Can be pure
- High turnover




## Institutional research



- No direct channels to policy
- Dissemination is focused on journals
- May not meet society's needs
- Dependant on project funding
- Access to resources



## Collaboration



- More leverage on policy
- Can meet the needs of society
- Publish in various forms
- Degree of independence
- Larger projects (in time and money)
- Teaches researchers about government
- Access to expertise



## Collaboration



- Slow response times
- Applied focus
- Independence compromised
- Dependency
- Question still defined by policy



## View to the future

- Collaboration has potential to optimise
  - Objectivity
  - Applicability
  - Influence on policy
- An expansion of collaborative projects may be justified, however..
  - Completely independent research is needed
  - As is the ability to maintain continuity and respond quickly

## Outstanding questions

- What is the best way to undertake high impact research?
- What responsibility do we have to guide research policy priorities?
- What skills do scientists need to be taught?
- How do we increase scientific literacy?
- What is the key barrier to incorporating ecological science into policy making?

