

## Q: What is the pruned log index?

**A:** Pruned Log Index (PLI) is a measure of the amount of clearwood in a pruned log. It also measures clearwood defects such as resin pockets and occlusion rot that reduce the value of a pruned log. Many buyers will pay a **premium** for pruned logs for which a PLI study has been undertaken because they have greater confidence in their value. And that obviously results in **greater returns to the forest owner**.

## Q: How does the pruned log index work?

**A:** The PLI study involves felling a sample of trees and cutting open the pruned logs to measure the clearwood component. The number of trees sampled depends on the area of the pruned stand, but is generally between 9 to 18. The study can be done in two ways:

- in the forest where the trees are felled by cutting the log into slices (a technique called cross-sectional analysis);
- at a sawmill where they cut the logs using conventional methods – this way the forest owner gets some revenue from the sample logs.

The results of the sawing study area analysed by Interface Ltd in Rotorua and a comprehensive report is prepared describing in detail the quality of the pruned logs.

## Q: What is clearwood?

**A:** Clearwood is free of knots and defects and is the highest value wood in a tree. It grows in a 'sheath' around the branch stubs after pruning. The size of this sheath is critical for sawmillers, who want to cut as much clearwood as possible from the log, and it is influenced by:

- timing of the pruning operation – too late and the knotty core is large;
- quality of the pruning – if the branch stubs didn't grow over quickly (called occlusion), the defect core is large;
- growth of the tree – too slow and there will be insufficient diameter growth to realise the full potential of the pruning.

## Q: Why should I spend money on a pruned log index?

**A:** Pruning is expensive, but it is an investment and has the potential to add a lot of value to a forest. That value will only be fully realised, however, if buyers have the confidence to bid a price that reflects the amount and quality of clearwood within the pruned logs. If buyers are not confident of those factors, they will discount their bids. A PLI study ensures that you get a **fair return for your pruning investment**.

Woodmetrics™ has developed a unique software tool called **PlotRite™** that will identify whether the cost of conducting a PLI assessment on your forest is warranted.