



## WELCOME TO THE **MAY 2016** SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY BULLETIN

This edition has information on:

- » Emissions Returns
- » Look-up tables
- » XML upload
- » Afforestation Grant scheme opening
- » Transfer of Participation in the ETS

For any further information on the material below, please contact MPI on **0800 CLIMATE (254 628)** or at [climatechange@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:climatechange@mpi.govt.nz).

MAY 2016

### **POST-1989 FORESTRY EMISSIONS RETURNS DUE BY 30 JUNE**

Registered post-1989 forestry participants can submit an emissions return for the 2015 calendar year. This will be open from 1 January 2016 to 30 June 2016. The 2013 and 2014 calendar year can also be covered if no return has been submitted for those periods. The return records any changes (increases and decreases) in carbon stock for registered Carbon Accounting Area(s).

To submit an emissions return in 2016, applications to register forest land must be approved before 30 June 2016. If you are a registered participant and are unable to submit a return within the emissions return period you can apply for an extension, before 30 June 2016, of up to 20 working days.

### **LOOK-UP TABLES**

In 2015, MPI proposed extending the carbon stock values in the default look-up tables used by participants with forest land comprised of exotic hardwoods registered in the ETS, or in the Permanent Forest Sink Initiative. This extension was required as the tables did not cover exotic hardwood trees more than 25 years old. Some post-1989 forests will be reaching 26 years in 2016.

In addition, owners of pre-1990 forests older than 25 years that are intending to deforest also required correct carbon stock values. This extension has now come into force, and the updated look-up tables are now available online. The tables for Post-1989 forests can be found [here](#) and for Pre-1990 forest [here](#).

### **XML UPLOAD FUNCTIONALITY FOR VOLUNTARY EMISSIONS RETURNS**

A software issue has been identified with the XML upload functionality for voluntary emissions returns for registered Post-1989 forest land in MPI's online ETS transaction system. This XML functionality should **NOT** be used until further notice. If you have already submitted a voluntary emissions return using this functionality please advise MPI immediately. You can still submit voluntary emissions returns electronically through MPI's online ETS transaction system but the data should be entered manually rather than uploaded through the XML upload function.

### **OPENING OF THE 2016 FUNDING ROUND OF THE AFFORESTATION GRANTS SCHEME (AGS)**

The 2016 funding round of the AGS opened on 27 April and closes on 8 June 2016. The purpose of the AGS is to encourage new forest planting, with a target of 15,000 hectares by 2020. After a successful funding round last year, the AGS is on track to meet this goal.

If you own land or have rights to use land for forestry, or are about to acquire land or such rights, you are eligible to apply. Grants of \$1300 per hectare of new forest are available, up to a total of \$19.5 million over the programme. Find out more at <http://mpi.govt.nz/funding-and-programmes/forestry/afforestation-grant-scheme/>

## TRANSFER OF PARTICIPATION FOR REGISTERED POST 1989 FOREST LAND

MPI is aware that some ETS participants and forestry consultants may not be clear on the transmission of interest provisions under the Climate Change Response Act (CCRA).

When post-1989 forest land that has been registered in the ETS is bought or sold or the lease or rights are transferred such that the ownership of the forest changes by more than **40 percent** the parties involved are required to submit a Transfer of Interest form and a Mandatory Emissions Return. This return reconciles the unit balance up until the point of transfer.

The effects of a transmission of interest of post-1989 forest land registered in the ETS is detailed in **s 192** of the Act and clarify the land transactions that constitute a transfer of interest.

If you are unclear of these provision or believe that you may have undertaken a transmission of interest and have not yet completed the required forms please contact **0800 CLIMATE (0800 254628)** or review the fact sheet **[here](#)**.