



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

This edition has information on:

- » End of the mandatory emissions return period
- » FMA Measurement Reminder
- » Afforestation Grant Scheme moves ahead
- » Updated FMA Standards
- » Updated Forestry Sector Regulations

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).

DECEMBER 2016

### **SECOND MANDATORY EMISSIONS RETURN PERIOD COMING TO A CLOSE**

The current Mandatory Emissions Return (MER) period for the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) ends on 31 December 2017. All participants that have registered post-1989 forest land in the ETS are required to submit a MER between 1 January and 30 June 2018. The MER covers the period 1 January 2013 – 31 December 2017.

### **START YOUR FMA MEASUREMENTS NOW**

Post-1989 forestry participants with at least 100 hectares of forest registered in the ETS are subject to the Field Measurement Approach (FMA) and must complete a set of forest measurements for the current MER. However, participants should first check they have an up-to-date plot set before they commence measurement.

### **AFFORESTATION GRANT SCHEME MOVES AHEAD**

The dates for the 2017 funding round of the AGS have been confirmed. The round will open on 13 March 2017 and close on 27 April. The purpose of the fund is to achieve a better environment through planting new forests. Whether it be carbon absorption or reducing land erosion, the scheme is already making a real contribution.

Next year's round is expected to see the momentum of the first two rounds continue. MPI was pleased with the number and quality of applications in this year's round, with 81 grants being

approved for a total of 4818 hectares of new forest. This will result in over 5.5 million new seedlings being planted during winter 2017.

This shows how the AGS is becoming better utilised by land owners, and means that after two funding rounds the scheme is on track to meet the target of planting 15,000 hectares of new trees by 2020. Go to [www.mpi.govt.nz/ags](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/ags) for more information, including eligibility and how to apply.

### **UPDATED FMA STANDARDS NOW IN EFFECT**

The two Standards which specify the practical aspects of establishing sample plots, and collecting/recording FMA information at those plots, were updated recently and are now in force. For most FMA participants, the most noticeable change will be the requirement to collect 8 tree heights per sample plot (for each measured diameter type, and Species Group), which is an increase from the previous minimum of 5 tree heights.

The new versions of the Standards can be found on MPI's website ([Field Measurement Approach Standard](#), and [Field Measurement Approach Information Standard](#)). A document summarising the key changes made, and providing some additional guidance, [is available on the MPI website](#). Please ensure all FMA information collected for the next mandatory emissions return due in the first half of 2018 adheres to the new Standards. An updated *Guide to the*

*FMA*, and *FMA information checklist*, will be available early in 2017 on the MPI website. MPI will send out a notification when this information is available.

### **UPDATED CLIMATE CHANGE (FORESTRY SECTOR) REGULATIONS IN EFFECT FROM 1 JANUARY 2017**

Several minor or technical changes were recently made to the Regulations governing forestry in the ETS. The amendments:

- » make more precise the definition of a sub-area in relation to determining an area of deforestation (in regulation 4);
- » clarify that the age of planted trees is determined from the time they are planted in their final location (in regulations 16 and 22);

- » simplify the form of the equation to calculate carbon stocks in harvest residues, and amend the definition of time since clearing (in regulation 21) to be consistent with the way elapsed time is determined elsewhere in the regulations; and
- » allow an FMA participant to receive a new set of permanent sample plots once at any time in a mandatory emissions return period, if they wish.

More detailed information can be found [here](#). Forestry participants should become familiar with the changes before filing future emissions returns.