



## WELCOME TO THE AUGUST 2014 SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY BULLETIN

This edition has information on:

- » Changes to the East Coast erosion grant scheme
- » What to do when registered post-1989 forest ownership changes
- » The 2015 change to units used to pay ETS obligations
- » The new online “Participant Unit Balance” feature

### CHANGES TO THE EAST COAST EROSION GRANT SCHEME

Changes have been made to the **East Coast erosion grant scheme** to make it easier for landowners to participate. The changes include:

- » the removal of unnecessary administrative requirements, such as the covenant;
- » payments to grantees have been sped up to reduce the need for bridging finance;
- » the establishment period has been extended to better cater for the seasonal nature and practicalities of planting programmes;
- » current grantees have the option of changing to these new agreements;
- » the programme has been renamed, changing from the East Coast Forestry Project to the Erosion Control Funding Programme (ECFP).

See **A guide to the ECFP** to find out how to receive a grant to assist in the treatment of erosion on the East Coast. Note also that grantees may be eligible to **earn NZUs** through the ETS.

### WHAT TO DO WHEN REGISTERED POST-1989 FOREST OWNERSHIP CHANGES

When ownership of ETS registered post-1989 forest changes you must submit a **Transfer of Participation** form and a **Mandatory Emissions Return (Transmission)** within 20 working days of the change.

A change in ownership may include:

- » forest sale;
- » change of trustees;
- » forestry right or lease addition/expiry;
- » any ownership structure change.

If an ownership change has occurred and you have not submitted these forms, please contact MPI as soon as possible.

### THE 2015 CHANGE TO UNITS USED TO PAY ETS OBLIGATIONS

From 31 May 2015, all NZ ETS emissions obligations must be paid using New Zealand Units (NZUs) only. For forestry participants this means forestry activity in 2015, which results in emissions obligations, must be paid for with NZUs in 2016.

For example, if you deforest pre-1990 forest land in 2015 you must submit an emissions return, and thus pay the obligations with NZUs, in 2016. However, if you deforest in 2014, and submit a return and pay units before 31 May 2015, you can still use Kyoto units (e.g. ERUs).

### THE NEW ONLINE “PARTICIPANT UNIT BALANCE” FEATURE

The new “Participant Unit Balance” feature in MPI's **online ETS transaction system** allows you to keep track of your Unit Balance (net units received for an area of forest).

You can use this to:

- » see unit transactions for all Carbon Accounting Areas;
- » sort and find specific unit transactions according to:
  - the type of emissions return;
  - the date of approval;
  - the Mandatory Emission Return Period;
- » download unit transaction reports.

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