



WELCOME TO THE **OCTOBER 2015** SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY BULLETIN

This edition has information on:

- » Tree weed exemptions
- » Recent ETS prosecutions
- » Kyoto Protocol Units in the NZEUR
- » Afforestation Grants Scheme update
- » New Zealand's Third Country Report on Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators
- » Extensions to the Exotic Hardwood look up tables.

For any further information on the material below, please contact MPI on **0800 CLIMATE (254628)** or at climatechange@mpi.govt.nz.

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TREE WEED EXEMPTIONS

Exemptions from deforestation liability are available for those land owners seeking to deforest pre-1990 forest land comprised of tree weeds.

Applications for an exemption close 30 December 2015. To avoid incurring a liability, land owners must apply to MPI, and once the application is approved deforestation must be completed by the end of 2017. Applications must meet certain criteria, as described in the [Guide to Tree Weed Exemptions](#). Application forms can be found [here](#).

RECENT ETS PROSECUTIONS

MPI has recently undertaken prosecutions of post-1989 forestry participants in the Emissions Trading Scheme for breaches of the Climate Change response Act 2002. Two prosecutions were recently concluded. The participants had failed to collect the prescribed data or other prescribed information, failed to calculate emissions and keep records; and failed to file a Mandatory Emission Return.

KYOTO PROTOCOL UNITS IN THE NZEUR

Changes to the validity of Kyoto Protocol emission units in the New Zealand Emission Unit Register (NZEUR) will come into effect after 18 November 2015.

The units affected are CERs, ERUs, RMUs and AAUs:

- » if you have any of these Kyoto Protocol units from the first commitment period, you will no longer be able to trade these units internationally after 18 November 2015; and
- » New Zealand will be required to cancel these units once it has completed all of its obligations from the first commitment period. This is expected to occur in mid-2016. However, the deadline for this process has not yet been set.

For holders of NZ AAUs: the Government will ensure that holders of NZ AAUs retain access to valid units. Options for the ongoing use of these units are currently being worked through, and the EPA will provide updates to holders once the process has been confirmed.

If you want to know more about the process of New Zealand meeting its obligations from the first commitment period, read the Q&A on the EPA website [here](#), or contact us.

AFFORESTATION GRANT SCHEME UPDATE

Associate Minister for Primary Industries Hon Jo Goodhew recently announced the results from the first round of the new Afforestation Grants Scheme. This will see 5 819 hectares planted throughout New Zealand. Over the next six years, the

scheme will help establish 15,000 ha of new plantation forest. MPI intends to open applications for the next funding round in April 2016, for planting in winter 2017. For further details about the recent announcement, click [here](#).

NZ SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT REPORT RELEASED

New Zealand's Third Country Report on Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators was launched recently by Hon Jo Goodhew at the 14th World Forestry Congress in Durban, South Africa.

The Montreal Process provides a framework for countries to report internationally on progress made towards achieving sustainable forest management for both planted and natural forests. The report, found [here](#), provides an overview of the current state of New Zealand's forests and covers a range of the environmental, commercial, social and cultural issues associated with those forests. The report complements the annual reporting of forestry industry statistics for New Zealand.

EXTENSION TO THE ETS HARDWOOD LOOKUP TABLES

In July 2014 MPI undertook consultation on proposed extensions to the default carbon tables used by some forestry participants with exotic hardwoods forests in the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS).

Following the consultation, the Minister for Climate Change Issues has approved the proposed extensions. This will ensure that ETS participants can submit more accurate emissions returns for older forests.

The extensions have added additional values for carbon stock per hectare to the default carbon tables in the Climate Change (Forestry Sector) Regulations 2008, for trees aged from 26 to 35 years. The extensions will be effective from 1 January 2016. The amendment regulations are available at the New Zealand Legislation website [here](#).