

# Department of Primary Industries



'Plantations for Greenhouse' is a great opportunity for Victorian landholders and investors interested in farm forestry. This initiative offers eligible participants the opportunity to invest in farm forestry for economic, environmental, agricultural and greenhouse benefits.

Aims of 'Plantations for Greenhouse' include:

- To extend Victoria's 'greenhouse sink' capacity by establishing up to 1500 hectares of new hardwood & softwood forestry plantations over the next 3 years
- To demonstrate investment in carbon sequestration and to explore mechanisms for cooperative carbon/timber investments
- To provide a means of investigating the potential of carbon to boost sawlog plantation expansion and associated environmental benefits
- To investigate and promote utilisation of Victoria's innovative Forestry & Carbon Rights legislation
- To provide a means for monitoring and accounting of carbon sequestration in plantations
- To promote and develop farm forestry as an enterprise to be integrated on farms for subsequent environmental, catchment and agricultural benefits

## Background Information

*Greenhouse Sinks and Global Warming* - Growing vegetation acts as a carbon sink due to its ability to absorb (or sequester) carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. On a global scale, soils and vegetation absorb about 40% of carbon dioxide emissions. Approximately half of the dry weight of a typical forest is carbon that has been absorbed or sequestered from the atmosphere. Reducing greenhouse emissions at their source is a key activity in the fight against global warming, however there is a growing need to establish extensive greenhouse sinks to assist in the battle against climate change. Establishing large areas of greenhouse sinks will also contribute to environmental repair of our regional landscapes.

*Victorian Greenhouse Strategy* - The Victorian Government is serious about taking action on climate change. Through the Victorian Greenhouse Strategy the Government will encourage investment in carbon sinks via the establishment of sustainable forestry plantations. These plantations will be located with an emphasis on maximising environmental benefits such as salinity mitigation and catchment health.

*Private Forestry* - 'Plantations for Greenhouse' further compliments other innovative Victorian Government natural resource programs such as the recently launched Victorian Private Forestry Strategy and Growing Victoria's Forests initiatives. These programs support appropriate plantation expansion throughout the state, delivering multiple environmental, economic and social benefits to rural and regional Victoria.

*Forestry and Carbon Rights* - The State Government recently amended the Forestry Rights Act to allow for separate ownership of property rights to carbon sequestered in trees. This legislation means that for the first time, the ownership of trees, carbon rights, and land can be held separately. Thus carbon investors can invest in carbon rights without having to buy land and establish the trees themselves. This potentially offers increased carbon trading opportunities for forest growers when and if international carbon trading commences.

*'Plantations for Greenhouse'* - Building on these amendments, the Victorian Greenhouse Strategy will provide \$1.5 million over the next 3 years to promote private investment in carbon sinks. Successful participants will be offered a cost share (\$500-\$700) towards the establishment of new plantations. These initiatives will ensure the development of greenhouse sinks play an important part in achieving the goals of the Victorian Greenhouse Strategy. They will also deliver important benefits to rural and regional Victoria.



## **Calling for expressions of interest for 2004 plantings!**

'Plantations for Greenhouse' will be offered across all of Victoria over a 3 year period and expressions of interest for 2004 plantings are now being sought from landholders & investors.

### **Conditions of Plantations for Greenhouse:**

- Plantations must be established on agricultural land cleared of vegetation prior to 1990 (Kyoto reference point). Sites requiring removal of native vegetation (including native grasslands) will not be accepted
- Cost share incentive will be \$500-\$700/ha, and will be dependent on carbon sequestration rates and site productivity. (Note: plantations typically cost \$900-\$1700/ha to establish)
- The minimum plantation area is 10 ha
- Participants will be required to sign a 30 year agreement (notified on title), assigning 20% of carbon rights for the plantation to the State Government. The trees and wood products will remain the property of the landowner/treegrower
- The agreement will also allow the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) the right to visit the property for the purposes of monitoring/accounting of carbon sequestration within the plantation
- Plantations must be established and managed over the longer term to produce sawlog products. Pulpwood or firewood products will be permitted as thinnings.
- The soils and topography must be suited to commercial tree production, and must have suitable slopes and site access. Sites of high demonstration value are encouraged
- Participants will be required to establish plantations according to guidelines provided by DPI. Cost share funds will be received following successful establishment of the plantation
- Management of the plantation will be the complete responsibility of the landowner/treegrower, with ongoing advice offered by DPI
- Participants who have been involved in Farm Forestry training or the DPI Farmtree\$ Planning Service will be given priority
- Participants are responsible for fencing and fencing costs
- Participants will be responsible for replacement of tree losses
- A Plantation Development Notice (which identifies the plantation and indicates the intention to harvest) must be lodged with your local government prior to establishment (**or** if required by your shire, a permit for plantation establishment may need to be obtained)
- Participants must undertake pest plant and animal control programs prior to and following plantation establishment. Sites with existing woody weed infestations will not be accepted

### **Applications are due by June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2003. For further information on the program contact:**

Graeme Anderson, Plantations for Greenhouse  
Department of Primary Industries,  
Private Forestry Unit NRE on (03) 52264821, Email : [graeme.anderson@nre.vic.gov.au](mailto:graeme.anderson@nre.vic.gov.au)

Or contact your local NRE Private Forestry Officer

For further information on Private Forestry see the web site [www.nre.vic.gov.au/forestry/private](http://www.nre.vic.gov.au/forestry/private)

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# EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM

## PLANTATION APPLICANT DETAILS

Applicant's Name: .....

Business/Company Name: .....

ABN: .....

Address: .....

Contact Details: Phone (W)..... (H).....

Mobile:..... Fax: .....

Email: .....

## PROPERTY DETAILS

Catchment Management Authority area: .....

Local Government: .....

Property Address: .....

*(If same as plantation applicant's address, write "As above")*

Property Title Details: Parish: ..... Allotment: .....

Volume: ..... Folio: .....

Property Area: ..... hectares

Registered Property Owner(s): .....

*(If same as plantation applicant, write "as above"; if it is a company write name, ACN. No., and company directors)*

National Mapping 1:25,000 Mapsheet (or grid ref): .....

CFA Map Book reference: .....

Current Farming Enterprise/s: .....

Annual Rainfall: .....

Geology: .....

General Soil Description: .....

.....

General Slope Description: .....

.....



New Plantation Area (hectares): .....

Approximate total costs for your new plantation (include fencing): \$ .....

Preferred plantation species: .....  
(Note: Species selection must be approved by NRE)

Does the site contain any woody weeds? (eg Gorse, Blackberry etc)?:.....

Does the site contain any native vegetation (including native grasslands)? (give details):  
.....

Farm forestry training/ experience – give details: .....

Have you participated in the Farmtree\$ Planning Service? : Yes / No Would you like to?.....

Are you a member of a farm forestry network? Yes / No If Yes, which one? .....

Other information/comments: .....  
(about your application) .....  
.....  
.....

**Please send your completed Expression of Interest form to:**

*'Plantations for Greenhouse'*  
Department of Primary Industries  
P.O. Box 103  
Geelong VIC 3220

**by June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2003**

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Dept. Primary Industries, Private Forestry Unit NRE on (03) 52264821  
Email : [graeme.anderson@nre.vic.gov.au](mailto:graeme.anderson@nre.vic.gov.au)

Or contact your local DPI Private Forestry Officer

For further information on Private Forestry see the web site [www.nre.vic.gov.au/forestry/private](http://www.nre.vic.gov.au/forestry/private)