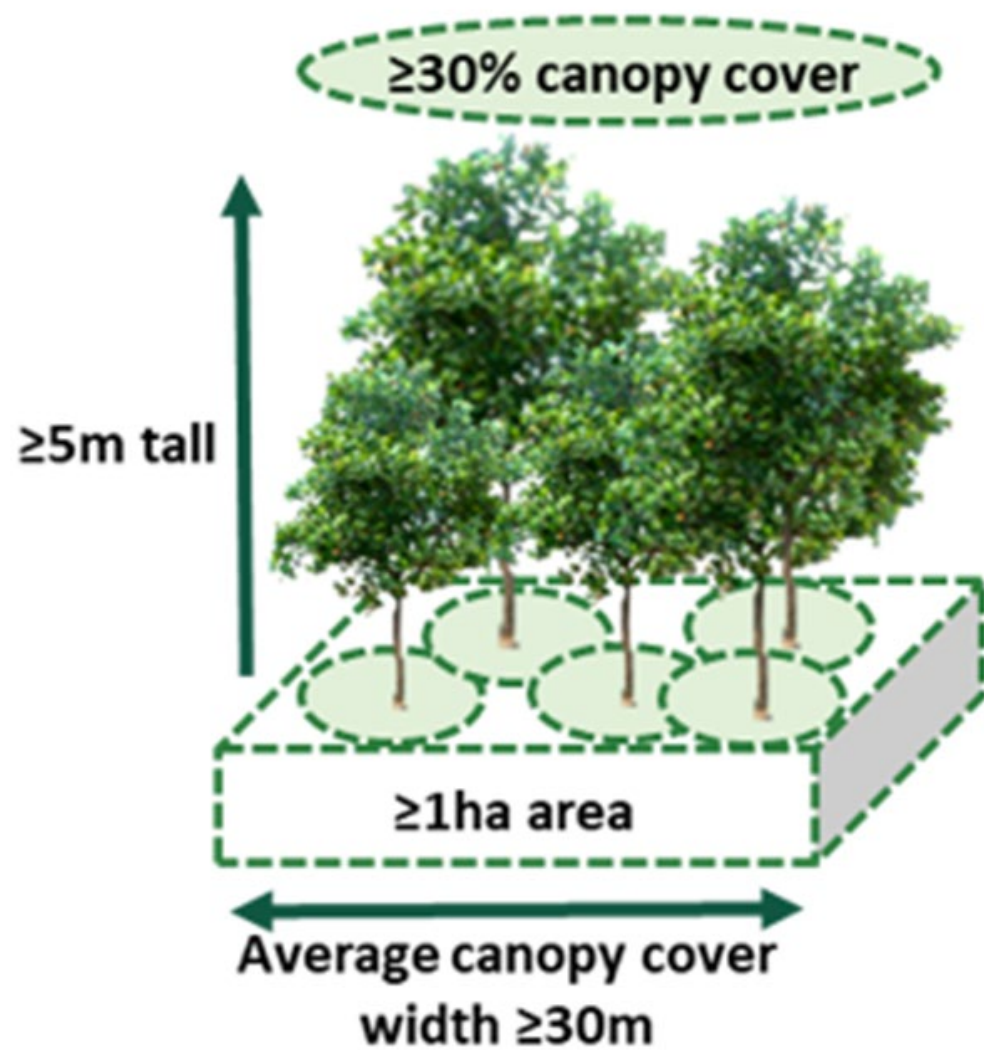




Motueka Catchment Collective

Innovative Farming Solutions

Forest land definition: The potential
to get to...



Two kinds of forest

The baseline date for net emissions is **1 January 1990** – as agreed in the Kyoto Protocol. This creates **two forest types** which are treated differently in the ETS.



1. Forest established before 1 January 1990 and land still remains exotic forest on 31 December 2007 (Indigenous forest is not covered, managed through RMA and Forests Act).
2. Counted as part of NZ's baseline carbon stock. You **can't** earn any units from the ETS.
3. You may harvest and replant without ETS obligations.
4. You must surrender units if you deforest.
5. Participation is **mandatory** – only if deforested.



1. Exotic/Indigenous forest established after 31 December 1989
2. This is considered additional carbon storage above the baseline.
3. You are able to earn units for forest growth.
4. You have obligations if you harvest.
5. You must pay back all units earned if you deforest.
6. Participation is **voluntary** – you need to register.

Species and Purpose

- Regenerating and planted native (indigenous) forest.
- Forests of exotic tree species.
 - Radiata Pine
 - Douglas Fir
 - Exotic Softwoods
 - Exotic hardwoods
 - Mixed-species Forest.
- Permanent Forests
- Standard Forests



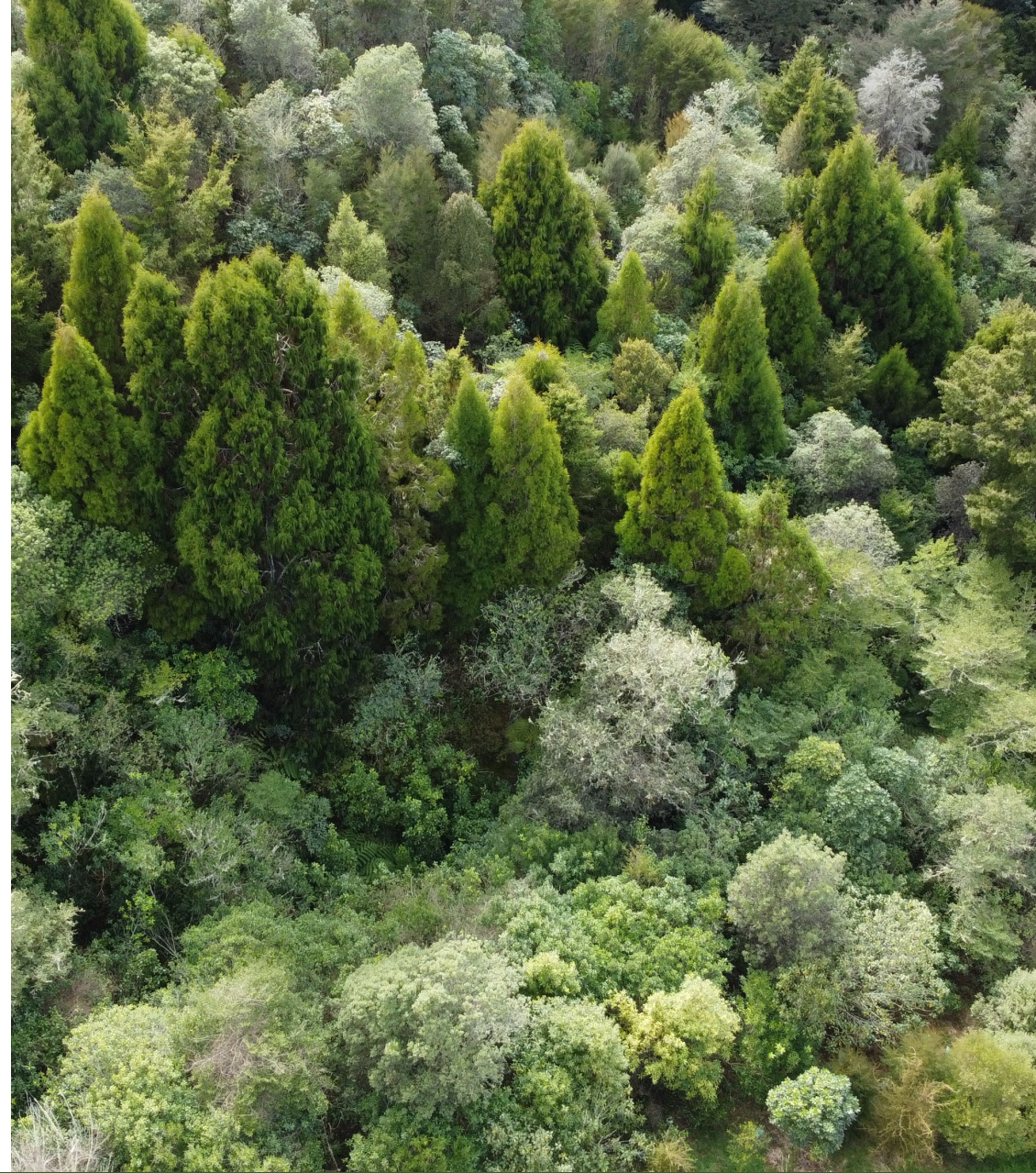
Standard Forests in ETS

- Earn units up to average age of forest
 - Radiata Pine – 16
 - Douglas Fir – 26
 - Exotic softwoods – 22
 - Exotic hardwoods – 12
 - Indigenous - 23
- Units earned for a first rotation only
- No liability once harvested provided a new forest is established within timeframes



Permanent Forests in ETS

- Must remain in forest for at least 50 years
- Penalties for removal of forest before 50-year period
- Earn credits for as long as the forest grows
- Can harvest provided 30% canopy cover (small coupes) is retained – Units surrendered at harvest until forest re-grows
- If managed appropriately, could be utilised to transition a higher generating, faster growing exotic species to a longer-term native carbon sink
- If it is harvested after at least 50 years, units earned are paid down to average value



Reversion in ETS

- Natural reversion is eligible for registration in the ETS, provided it established after 1990.
- Reverting forest may need supplementary planting to meet forestland definitions – for example regeneration may not occur evenly across a site to meet the 30 % cover rule or may not have sufficient taller tree species.
- ETS credits may be accrued from the time that the land began regenerating and met the forestland definitions.



Examples of post-1989 forest eligibility

20 hectares radiata pine planted in July 1994 into paddocks grazed since the 1960s. **Livestock numbers before planting were enough to stop regeneration** of any forest species.



‘Post-1989’ forest land, established in July 1994

5ha back paddocks grazed since the 1970s, with **enough livestock to stop growth** of any forest species. **Livestock were removed in early 1994** and extensive mānuka seedling regeneration visible over the whole area by 1997.



‘Post-1989’ forest land, established in 1994

5ha gully originally indigenous forest but was converted to farmland in the 1930s. It was **farmed until the early 1980s then abandoned** and was left to revert to indigenous forest and is **still in forest today**.



Indigenous forest established before 1990 - NOT ‘post-1989’ forest land

Main body greater than
1Ha AND 30m average
width

Internal gaps less than 1 Ha

STAND 1
Mixed Species
5.4 Ha

Less than 15m gap
Between trees

Forest boundary followed
crown canopy at maturity

Less than 30m in width BUT connected
To main body greater than 1 Ha and 30m
Ave width

Less than 15m gap
Between trees

Result: Eligible Post 1989 Forest



Changes to Limit Farm Conversions

- Effective from October 2025 – final decisions pending
- Moratorium (ban) on registering exotic forest in the ETS on land use capability (LUC) class 1 to 5 land that has been converted from farmland.
- Limit of 15,000 ha per year on LUC class 6
- No limits on native forest in the ETS
- The policy allows:
- Up to 25% LUC 1-6 land on a farm to be exempt from limits
- Transitional exemptions for those in the process of planting



Ngā mihi

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