

Emissions Trading Scheme

How to apply for registration for regenerating native forest areas on Banks Peninsula

Information for landowners prepared by the Banks Peninsula Native Forest Climate Change Group (BPNFCC)

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The BPNFCC is an informal group of experts from Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust, Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust, Federated Farmers Banks Peninsula, Manaaki Whenua/Landcare Research, Christchurch City Council, Environment Canterbury, QEII National Trust, Maurice White Native Forest Trust (Hinewai Reserve), Orion NZ Ltd, private landowners of conservation land, and private consultants involved with land use and carbon sequestration

The BPNFCC advocates for climate change mitigation and carbon sequestration policy and practices that will enhance native biodiversity and contribute to the strengthening of Banks Peninsula's social, economic, and environmental well-being.

The group hopes that its work will help make it easier for Banks Peninsula landowners to register regenerating native forest in the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS).

Are you interested in earning an income from every hectare of suitable land on your property that is regenerating into native forest and earning a premium of up to \$3,000 per hectare for doing so quickly?

The purpose of this pamphlet is to provide information to landowners who are considering applying to register in the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) and earn carbon credits from regenerating forest on their land.

There are a growing number of landowners who have successfully registered naturally regenerating forest into the ETS and are now earning credits, including eight on Banks Peninsula.

With carbon prices at \$75 per NZ carbon credit (as of April 2022), letting parts of your land revert to native forest may provide an appealing financial return, but be aware that registration in the ETS is an ongoing commitment, so needs to be part of the long-term plan for your land.

If submit your application to MPI and it is approved before the end of December 2022, you will also receive five years worth of credits backdated to the start of the current accounting period 1 January 2018. Current MPI processing times are lengthy - to be eligible for this windfall you must apply as soon as possible. (BPNFCC is lobbying to speed processing times, but has no guarantee of success).



1. Getting started

What kind of land qualifies for the ETS?

To qualify, **every hectare** you register needs to:

- Not have been covered in forest (even young forest) in 1990.
- Be a minimum size of one hectare, and a minimum width of 30 metres.
- Now contain native forest seedlings or young trees (such as Kānuka, Whiteywood (Māhoe), Broadleaf, Lemonwood, Ribbonwood, Cabbage trees or Tōtara) not present in 1990 that will eventually grow to over 5m and give a 30% canopy cover. (These seedlings may be growing under gorse or scrub).

Note: Land which contained gorse or scrub in 1990 may be eligible but can be challenging to register.

Land that won't qualify for the ETS

- Forested in 1990
- Wetlands
- Rocky outcrops
- Narrow strips less than 30m wide such as shelter belts and most riparian planting
- Gorse, scrub or retired pasture that does not yet contain enough native tree seedlings to give a 30% canopy cover per hectare on maturity

2. How do you register if you think you have land that will qualify?

- Apply to MPI as soon as possible - applications can take several months to prepare and process, so you need to start now if you want the 2022 windfall credits.
- This is a highly skilled task, so we recommend that you engage a specialist consultant to do this work unless you have your own skills in ecology and mapping. Ask them to start with an assessment before preparing an application.
- Your application needs to provide evidence that each hectare you apply for meets the criteria above. This will usually be based on plot sampling and photographs to show what is growing now and to estimate its average age, and historic imagery such as photos or aerial farm maps to show the land cover in 1990, plus any evidence you have of land use change.

More detailed information on the specifics of ETS registration can be found at:

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/forestry/forestry-in-the-emissions-trading-scheme/registering-post-1989-forest-land/>

Registering your suitable land helps everyone - you, our community, our biodiversity, and the environment

3. Useful carbon consultant contacts:

- CarbonCrop - start by submitting a request for a free land assessment at www.carboncrop.nz
- Carbon Forest Services - contact via the form on www.carbonforestservices.co.nz
- The AgriBusiness group - email info@agribusinessgroup.com
- Forever Forests - contact via the form on www.foreverforests.co.nz

