

The Hon Josh Frydenberg MP
Minister for the Environment and Energy
Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600

cc: Hon. Gavin Jennings MP, Victorian Special Minister of State

4th November 2016

Dear Minister,

Request for development of carbon methodologies

The development of carbon methodologies has been identified as one of several key opportunities for change arising from discussions that are currently being held amongst leading stakeholders from the forest and fibre industry and forest conservation groups represented in the Victorian Forest Industry Taskforceⁱ.

In a carbon constrained economy, the forest, fibre and wood products industries and the conservation of forest ecosystems can contribute positive solutions to lowering Victoria's carbon emissions.

Consistent measuring and accounting of carbon is vital to understanding its value, and encouraging future investment. Valuing carbon across the landscape presents significant opportunities for securing financial resources for industry development, landowners and securing forest protection and biodiversity benefits.

To realise these opportunities and encourage investment in expanding the plantation estate, in alternative forest management regimes, and in the establishment of new national parks, new carbon methodologies are required for measuring and accounting for carbon abatement in native forests and in plantations.

Developing new carbon methodologies is therefore an important next step in recognising and monetising the potential carbon value of productive short and long rotation plantations across tenures, native forests across tenures, and of new national parks and conservation reserves.

New carbon methodologies are also urgently required as they will play a key role in informing final Taskforce outcomes.

To promptly progress development of new carbon methodologies, and in conjunction with the Victorian Government, we request the Commonwealth Government develop three new methodologies, one for the establishment of 'for harvest' plantations, a second for alternative silvicultural management regimes and a third for the permanent protection of native forests. All new methods must be compliant with both the Emissions Reduction Fund and international

carbon accounting and trading standards.

In determining the annual priorities for methodology development, we understand that one of the first criteria you must assess is the breadth of business support for the method. We firmly believe that with the strong support of leading stakeholders from the forest and fibre industry and forest conservation groups, our organisations and sectors, the methodologies being requested readily meet that criteria.

I look forward to working with you and your government to progress the development of new carbon methodologies. Please let me know how I can further support implementation of this request.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Henry', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Professor Don Henry – Chair.

On behalf of key stakeholders on the Forest Industry Taskforce

ⁱ See <http://forestindustrytaskforce.com.au>