



### Measure logging & burning emissions from State Forests under RFAs

**Minister Greg Hunt**, in his paper for the 2<sup>nd</sup> *Emissions Reduction Summit* 6-May-15, said “look for innovative ways to reduce our emissions and participate in the Emissions Reduction Fund”.

His address to 400 international and local authorities was followed by a ‘Q&A’ session, including:

**Question** from the floor, from Mike Thompson of Nature.Net.au;

*“Minister, we’ve heard from the UN, and the EU, as well as the US over the past 24 hours. You will recall in a Four Corners video of a few years ago, which was taken by the French, showing the clear felling of a mountainside of old growth forest in Tasmania under a government controlled Regional Forest Agreement. I wonder if you can tell us when the Australian Government will introduce an ERF method so that through the Direct Action Program we can actually measure the carbon, the massive carbon emissions, which comes from clear felling mountainsides of old growth forest in south eastern Australia”.*

**ANSWER from Australia’s Environment Minister Greg Hunt;**

*“Well, let me say this, firstly, there is already a full assessment of the impact of forests on our national emissions; those impacts are assessed. Secondly, we have just seen the greatest incentive for re-forestation and avoided deforestation in the Emissions Reduction Fund. In Tasmania, Forests Alive was engaged in successfully bidding in a series of native forestry activities”.*

**Interjection from Mike Thompson (off microphone) redirecting him to the QUESTION;**

*“Minister, with respect, you restricted that method to private land.*

***My question is on emissions from State Forests.”***

**Supplementary ANSWER from Greg Hunt**

*“Look, this is an extraordinary first step. And further methodologies - we’ll have more to say about that shortly. But let me just say, we’ve just seen the single largest farm-based reduction, or land based reduction, in Australian history. Out of 31 million tonnes, 47 (projects) came from agro-forestry, from native forest reductions, native forest preservation or other land based mechanisms. **So firstly, they are accounted for in our nationally determined emissions. Secondly, we’ve just seen a significant change, and thirdly, there are further methodologies under development. So it’s good, important news.”** \**

\*Transcription of [www.carbonmarketinstitute.org/events/2015\\_summit\\_presentations](http://www.carbonmarketinstitute.org/events/2015_summit_presentations)

**Do any ‘further methodologies under development’ measure State Forest emissions?**

2-Jun-15

Mike@Nature.Net.au’s submission 2-Jun-15 on ERF ‘Methods’ stated: “Australia risks International embarrassment (and ‘perverse outcomes’ from the RET) if emissions from clear-felling, logging and burning of Government-controlled State Forests are not measured to help evaluate ‘land-use’ options. *Is some of Australia’s legal logging in State Forests worse than illegal logging in PNG & Indonesia?*”

Jobs and Threatened Species benefit from ‘Carbon Credits’ in Australia’s most carbon-dense State Forests, managed under ‘pre-carbon’ RFAs drafted in the 1990s. *Great Eastern Ranges (GER)* ‘national landscape connectivity’ opportunities include the Northern NSW Great Koala National Park (GKNP), Victoria’s *Great Forest National Park (GFNP)* and revival of ‘*Alps-to-Sea*’ World Heritage proposals linking Gippsland Forests to the ACT and NSW’ Great Southern Koala Forest (GSKF).

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