

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Reforestation the Right Response

Today's release of the Government's CPRS White Paper is a further step to allowing reforestation to play its rightful part in climate change mitigation.

A3P, the peak body representing the plantation products and paper industry, welcomed the Government's acknowledgement of the carbon stored in forests and its role in mitigating climate change.

A3P CEO Richard Stanton said "the voluntary inclusion of reforestation, with appropriate accounting rules, as proposed by the Government, is the right response to the threat of climate change and the need for a broad emissions trading scheme."

A3P acknowledges the leading work Australia has done internationally and domestically on including forests in carbon trading, particularly the inclusion of reforestation in the CPRS. The proposed rules will provide some reward for the carbon benefits of investing in new plantations.

In particular A3P recognise the flexibility of the proposal in particular using an 'average crediting basis' and the range of possible accredited forest entities.

However it is disappointing that the proposed rules effectively preclude acknowledging carbon in plantations established between 1990 and 2010, including investments specifically made with a carbon objective.

While being aware of the rigorous work of the Department of Climate Change on the reforestation rules, Mr Stanton said "There is some doubt that the estimates provided by ABARE and Treasury on rates of reforestation would ever be achieved in practice and particularly not under the set of rules proposed."

"Nevertheless this is a very difficult issue and we welcome the good work of the Government and its officials in proposing a sound model."

"A3P now looks forward to working with the Government in the implementation of the scheme."

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### Further information

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