



Greetings

As you know the Government has confiscated the carbon credits of forests planted since 1990. By this action they are depriving you the forest owner of between \$13,000 and \$20,000 of income per ha of forest owned

Government officials, who are the architects of the government's agenda, are touring the country holding public forums in main centres during February and March to discuss their plans to confiscate your carbon credits and impose substantial new taxes for converting forest land.

It is vital these meetings are well attended by those who oppose the Government's plans. We urge you to attend the meeting in your area to support those who are fighting the battle on your behalf and to make yourself heard. If too few people turn up to make their voice heard, the Government will use that to argue there is support for its plans. There isn't and your attendance can ensure the Government and the media hear loud and clear how strongly forest owners feel. A schedule of meeting dates times and venues is attached.

The Kyoto Forestry Association (KFA) and the New Zealand Forest Owners Association (NZFOA) are now working closely to make sure everyone knows the Government's forestry and climate change policies have completely failed. From 1992 to 1998, with the promise of carbon credit ownership, new forest planting in New Zealand totalled 483,000 ha. In the seven years since, new plantings have dropped to 163,000 ha, a difference of 320,000 hectares – a disaster for New Zealand's Kyoto budget balance. Now, new plantings have plummeted to their lowest level since 1960 and New Zealand is experiencing deforestation for the first time in living memory. Yet the Government persists with its plans.

Under the proposed legislation, the government will confiscate between \$8 and \$15 billion of carbon credits legitimately owned by Kyoto forest owners. This is a fundamental breach of private property rights. As forest owners, we created the carbon that the credits represent and have ongoing control over whether that carbon continues to be sequestered and the credits continue to exist. That is the very definition of an ownership interest. What's more, one of the reasons so many of us decided to invest in forestry through the 1990s was because of promises made by government officials that the credits would be ours to sell or trade.

Industry leaders have spent two years talking in good faith to government officials but that has turned out to have been a waste of time. The Government has ignored the work entirely, and every element of the six-point plan for reforestation agreed by all major forestry groups in 2006 has been rejected. Dialogue in Wellington has clearly failed. KFA and NZFOA are now resolved to take the fight public.

Beyond the meetings over the next month, KFA is beginning fundraising for a \$5 million campaign against the Government's unreasonable and ill-judged proposals. The campaign will run from this month until the Government agrees to make a more reasonable approach based on the industry's agreed six-point plan. All money donated to the campaign will be spent on media advertising and not for any other purpose. As an owner who is likely to benefit we urge you to contribute to this fund. You can make your donation now, either by a direct credit into the Kyoto Forestry Association account at the BNZ Wanganui, Account number 020792-019112-002 or by cheque to the Kyoto Forestry Association, P.O. Box 43, Waverley 4544

Support the New Zealand forest industry in our stand. Climate change and the war against global warming will not be achieved by government rorts that penalise you who have, by your investment in forestry, already demonstrated a commitment to a better environmental future.

Throw your weight behind those who are fighting for your rights by attending the meeting in your area

Regards

Kyoto Forest Association

Schedule of MAF meetings:

These forums are to be held at 9.45am to 1.15pm on the following dates and venues:

Gisborne	Lawson Field Centre, Fitzherbert Street	13 February
Nelson/Marlborough	Tahuna Beach Centre 70 Beach Road, Tahunanui	19 February
Waikato	Kingsgate Hotel, 100 Garnett Ave, Hamilton	20 February
Hawkes Bay	Angus Inn, Railway Road, Hastings	21 February
Northland	Kingsgate Hotel, 9 Riverside Drive, Whangarei	22 February
Rotorua	Kingsgate Hotel, Fenton Street, Rotorua	26 February
Taranaki	Devon Hotel, 390 Devon Street East, New Plymouth	27 February
Manawatu/Wanganui	Palmerston North Convention Centre, 400 Main St West	28 February
Wairarapa	Solway Park, High Street, Masterton	01 March
Canterbury	Russley Hotel, 73 Roydvale Ave, Christchurch Airport	06 March
Southland	Working Men's Club, 154 Esk Street, Invercargill	06 March
West Coast	Hotel Ashley, 74 Tasman Street, Greymouth	07 March
Otago	The Dundedin Centre, 1 Harrop Street, Dunedin	08 March
