



Ref: OIA 2024-048



12 December 2024

Tēnā koe

Thank you for your request dated 14 November 2024 under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

"I am seeking to understand the basis of the forest planting figures presented in your report "Report on the potential domestic contribution to Aotearoa New Zealand's second nationally determined contribution (2024)"

- 1. Please provide copies of the criteria used to create these forest planting figures and any reports prepared.*
- 2. Please provide copies of any GIS data that shows the extent of the various forest plantings indicated by the figures"*

The Commission has considered your request in accordance with the Act. Please see our response below.

Response

The figures in our *Report on the potential domestic contribution to Aotearoa New Zealand's second nationally determined contribution* are based on scenarios developed for the draft advice on the fourth emissions budget, released for consultation in April 2024. The draft advice is available [here](#) on the Commission's website.

The Commission's final advice on the fourth emissions budget was published in December 2024 and is available [here](#).

The Commission takes a scenario-based approach to modelling. There are multiple pathways available to get to the current 2050 target and these are represented by different scenarios. The demonstration path is one such scenario and is not a forecast of likely outcomes.

Below is a summary of the criteria and approaches used for each scenario in the draft advice:

1. Draft Low Technology Low Systems change scenario

Indicative future afforestation areas were compiled by considering land use and characteristics:

- **Native Regeneration:** Retirement of all Land Use Capability Class 8 Sheep and Beef land, as this is considered unsuitable for productive use (neither Sheep and Beef farming nor plantation forestry).



- **10% Afforestation of Sheep and Beef Land:** Based on studies indicating that productivity and profitability are not significantly impacted when 10–15% of land is afforested. This includes:
 - Native plantings at the *Afforestation and Deforestation Intentions Survey* rate (~6,000 hectares per year).
 - The remaining area planted in exotic species annually.

2. Draft Emission Budget 4 demonstration path

The overall amount of exotic forestry in the draft EB4 demonstration path is similar to that modelled in the Commission's first advice to the Government, *Ināia tonu nei: a low emissions future for Aotearoa*. You can find a link to that report [here](#) and forestry information on page 120. However, as exotic forestry planting rates during 2020–2022 exceeded previous projections, the draft demonstration path required less new exotic forestry through to 2050 to reach similar overall levels.

3. Draft High Technology High Systems change scenario.

Indicative afforestation areas were compiled by considering land use and characteristics:

- **Native Regeneration:** Retirement of all Land Use Capability Class 8 Sheep and Beef land (similar to the Low Technology scenario).
- **Erosion-Prone Land:** Afforest Land Use Capability Class 7 Sheep and Beef land that is erosion-prone with native species.
- **Exotic Afforestation:** Additional afforestation with exotic planting to enable all greenhouse gases to reach net zero by 2050.

The Commission did not produce GIS data that shows the extent of the various forest plantings as part of our modelling process. The scenarios were developed with reference to the landscape to generate indicative afforestation areas, which were then used in the model to calculate carbon removal quantities over the time period.

As we do not hold the GIS data requested, we are relying on [section 18\(g\)](#) of the Act not to provide it to you.

The Commission's subject matter expert for this work, Nancy Golubiewski (Principal Analyst, Primary Industries & Environment), is happy to speak with you, should you have any further questions. You can contact Nancy by email at Nancy.Golubiewski@climatecommission.govt.nz

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this response by the Office of the Ombudsman, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. Contact details for the Ombudsman can be found on their website at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz

Please note that the Commission proactively releases its responses to requests made under the Act. This is to help ensure others can also have access to this information. As such, this letter will shortly be published on our website with your name and contact details redacted to protect your privacy.

Nāku noa, nā



Astrid Nunns
General Manager, Corporate, Accountability and Operations