



IN THIS HELP SHEET

This help sheet walks through the purpose and utility of the Forestry Integration Tool (FIT).

The Tool

FIT gives you a first-pass indication of whether small-scale forestry is suitable for your location and forestry ambitions. We have included two tree species to choose between as relevant for southeast Australia – pine (softwood) and blue gum (hardwood). It first scans for potential zoning or overlay barriers and whether you are eligible to claim carbon credits (Australian Carbon Credit Units, ACCUs). Then, with information you enter and default values, provides a cashflow model of your prospective project. If desired, you can modify the default values to be specific to your particular circumstances.

A report has been prepared accompanying FIT. It details methodologies, sources, and assumptions used to develop the tool. Refer to [FIT Summary Report](#) for specific details regarding the tool's architecture.

The Opportunity

Australia's domestic timber supply is subject to increasing pressures from catastrophic climate events, market pressures, and competing land use priorities.^{1,2,3,4} New plantation establishment has slowed dramatically in the past 15 years (see Figure 1). Australian industry (housing, etc.) depends on timber imports to balance demand peaks.⁵ An increasing gap between demand and domestic supply is projected out to 2050.⁶

Federal and State & Territory governments have set ambitious greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets. While energy transition and efficiency improvements are contributing to reducing emissions, there still remains a requirement to remove atmospheric GHG emissions to achieve these targets (see Figure 2).⁷

Small-scale forestry presents a win-win-win opportunity (you, the community, and the environment). You as the landholder could earn money in both the timber market and carbon credit market while supplying primary resources to the community and helping mitigate climate change.⁸

1 Linden Whittle, "Effects of bushfires and COVID-19 on the forestry and wood processing sectors." *ABARES Insights*, no. 6 (2020), https://daff.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/search/asset/1030501/0.

2 "Australian plantation area and log availability – National plantation inventory regions and Regional forestry hubs", Plantation and log supply, last updated 31 March 2022, <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/research-topics/forests/forest-economics/plantation-and-log-supply>.

3 Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES), *Australian Wood Volumes Analysis*, Research Report 25.02 (Cth, 2025), 6, https://daff.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/search/asset/1036861/0/AusWoodVolumesAnalysis_v1.0.0.pdf.

4 Fifth Estate, *Australia's Timber Fibre Strategy* (Strategic Forest and Renewable Materials Partnership, 2025), <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/33964.pdf>.

5 Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES), *Australian Wood Volumes Analysis*, 6.

6 Forest & Wood Products Australia (FWPA), *Future Market Dynamics and Potential Impacts on Australian Timber Imports* (Forest & Wood Products Australia, 2022), https://fwpa.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/SAE179-2021_Future_market_dynamics__potential_impacts_on_Australian_timber_imports.pdf.

7 Australian Government, *Australia's Net Zero Plan* (Cth, 2025), <https://www.dcccew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/net-zero-report.pdf>.

8 Department of Agriculture, Water, and the Environment, *Farm Forestry: Growing together* (Cth, 2022), 5, <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/farm-forestry-growing-together.pdf>.

Guidance Note 1.0

Foundations – Introduction to FIT

There are also big co-benefits of planting trees – property aesthetics and amenity value, livestock sheltering, crop and pasture protection, and biodiversity/habitat improvements.^{9,10} Forestry can also contribute to the local economy and connect communities.¹¹

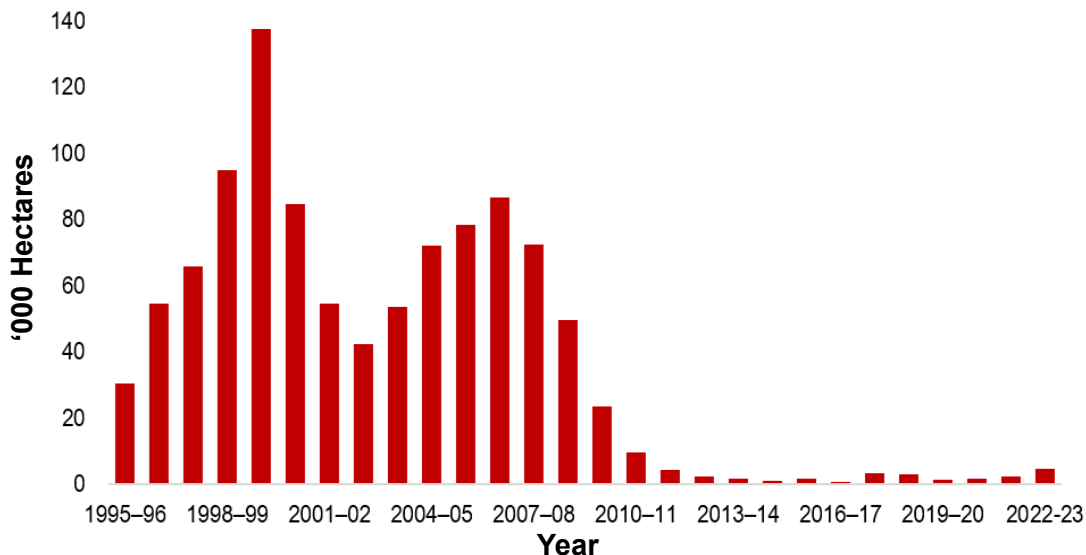


Figure 1: Greenfield timber plantation establishment in Australia ('000 hectares).¹²

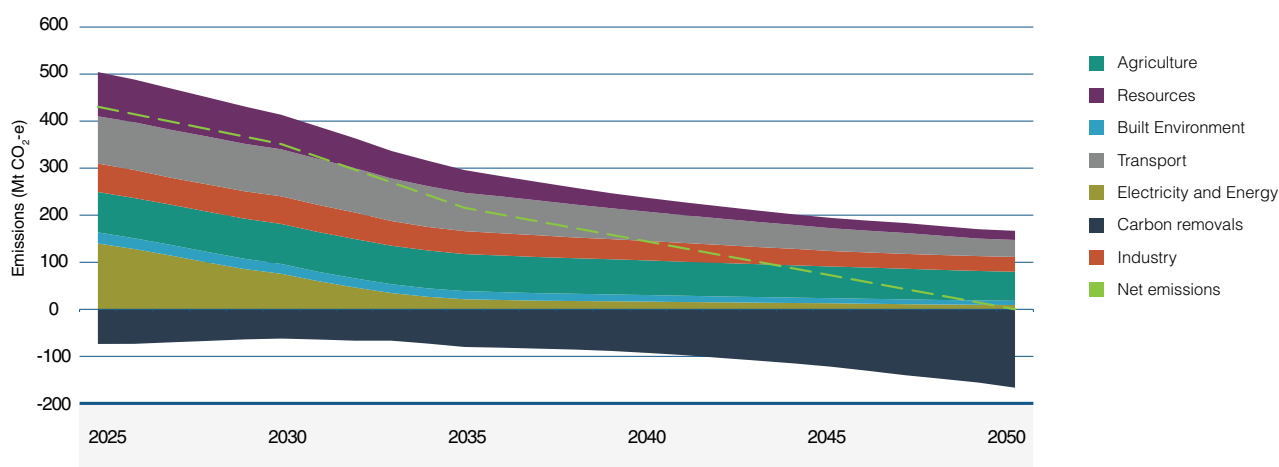


Figure 2: Carbon removals is a key component of the Federal Net Zero plan.¹³

⁹ Department of Agriculture, Water, and the Environment, Farm Forestry: Growing together, 1.

¹⁰ "Trees on Farms", Agriculture Victoria, last updated 20 April 2026, <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/crops-and-horticulture/plantations-and-farm-forestry/trees-on-farms>.

¹¹ Standing Committee on Agriculture, Resources, Fisheries and Forestry, *Seeing the forest through the trees* (Cth 2011), Chapter 6, https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House_of_representatives/Committees?url=arff/forestry/report/fullreport.pdf.

¹² Fifth Estate, *Greenfield timber plantation establishment in Australia* ('000 hectares). In *Australia's Timber Fibre Strategy* (Strategic Forest and Renewable Materials Partnership, 2025), <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/33964.pdf>.

¹³ Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, *Projected emissions under Treasury Baseline Scenario, by sector*. In Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, *Australia's Net Zero Plan* (Cth, 2025), Section 5.3, <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/net-zero-report.pdf>.

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