

The Plantations for Greenhouse Program provides support for the development of new greenhouse/sawlog plantations, funded via the Victorian Government's Greenhouse Strategy and supported as part of the Private Forestry Strategy. The program has been funded to deliver 1500 hectares of new sawlog plantations over a 3 year period. In 2003 the project commences with 250 hectares which will be planted across the Port Phillip, Gippsland and Northeast CMA areas.

Our efforts are now turned to seeking suitable greenhouse/sawlog applications for the 2004 planting season. The expression of interest form is attached and provides most of the details on how the program will operate in 2004. (See attached file: Plantations for Greenhouse Application for 2004.pdf)

The 2004 program will be open to landholders and farm forestry investors across all of Victoria. **Applications for 2004 plantings will be due by June 27th, 2003.**

The aim is to have all applications assessed and letters of offer to successful candidates by spring 2003 to allow appropriate time for effective plantation planning & establishment. Local delivery of the program will be via DPI Private Forestry Officers. The level of cost share will be \$500-\$700/ha depending on site productivity (carbon sequestration) rates. A bonus \$100/ha cost share will apply (max \$700/ha) for plantations located in priority zones as identified by CMA's, eg priority salinity zones.

The program will be promoted in various statewide farm forestry magazines, but I suggest if you have potential clients in your local area that you should personally inform them of this initiative. Participants in the FarmTree\$ Planning Service will all be notified in writing about this initiative. In discussions with prospective applicants, there is a need to explain the 10 ha minimum area and the 30 year agreement which is notified on property title. I have draft versions of the agreement which can be provided to clients if they wish to view a copy.

If anyone has any queries please give me a call.

Thanks

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