

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration  
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE  
Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio  
Department of Climate Change  
Additional Estimates Hearing—February 2008



**Written question reference:** CC8

**Outcome/Output:** Response to climate change

**Topic:** Land Use Change and Forestry sector greenhouse gas emissions

**Hansard Page:** F&PA 28

**Question:**

Do you have information on what Australia's forestry and land use change sectors currently contribute to greenhouse gas emissions? What are they projected to contribute in the future, including the effect of the Queensland legislation?

**Answer:**

Australia's National Carbon Accounting System provides estimates of greenhouse gas emissions for the Land Use Change and Forestry sectors up to 2005.

In 2005, emissions from the Land Use Change sector were 74.1 million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e). Sequestration (absorption from the atmosphere) from the Forestry sector was estimated to be 21.8 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e on a Kyoto accounting basis.

Over the Kyoto target period (2008-12), emissions from Land Use Change sector are projected to decrease to 44.2 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e per annum.

The Governments of Queensland and New South Wales have introduced legislation to limit the amount of land clearing in those states. For the Kyoto target period, the combined emissions savings of this legislation is estimated to be 24 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e annually.

Current projections for the Forestry sector show that approximately 20.5 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e is expected to be sequestered per annum over the Kyoto target period (2008-12), on a Kyoto accounting basis.

See Attachment A for time series data.

## Greenhouse gas emissions for the Land Use Change and Forestry sectors

Greenhouse Gas Emissions for the Land Use Change and Forestry Sectors		
Year	Land Use Change	Forestry
1990	136.5	0.0
1991	113.8	-2.0
1992	95.7	-3.9
1993	83.1	-5.6
1994	82.1	-7.1
1995	70.3	-8.5
1996	67.9	-9.4
1997	66.0	-10.3
1998	75.0	-11.3
1999	66.1	-12.8
2000	70.9	-13.3
2001	68.9	-15.0
2002	76.9	-17.1
2003	55.2	-19.6
2004	59.5	-21.3
2005	74.1	-21.8
2006	64.1	-23.0
2007	54.2	-22.8
2008	44.2	-20.5
2009	44.2	-20.5
2010	44.2	-20.5
2011	44.2	-20.5
2012	44.2	-20.5
2013	44.2	-20.4
2014	44.2	-20.4
2015	44.2	-20.3
2016	44.2	-20.3
2017	44.2	-20.2
2018	44.2	-20.1
2019	44.2	-20.1
2020	44.2	-20.0

*Actuals 1990-2005*

*Projections 2006-2020*

*Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e*

**Note:** Sequestration from forestry activities is expressed as negative emissions

*Source: 2007 Tracking to the Kyoto Target*