

# Forests in the Green Paper

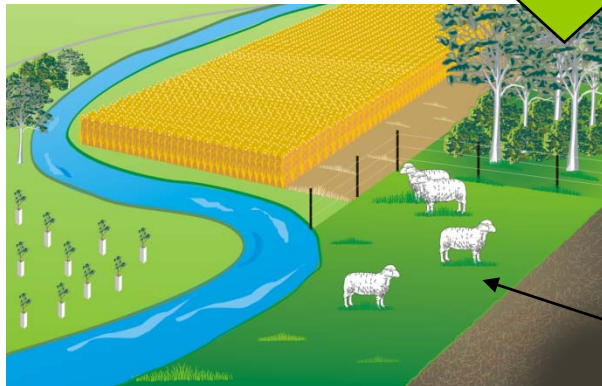
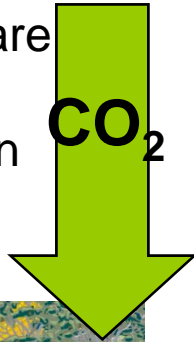
Phil Polglase, CSIRO

Plantations that are harvested incur an emissions liability

Storage of carbon in wood products not included

1

CO<sub>2</sub>



4

Farmers can participate through the forestry sector and by designing carbon neutral farms

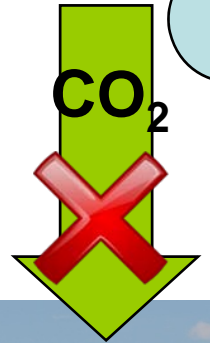
CO<sub>2</sub>

2



CO<sub>2</sub>

3



# Science questions

1. How do you accurately and cheaply count the carbon stored in trees over time?
2. Can we estimate the carbon stored in wood products?
3. What are the impacts of plantations on water supply and security and how does water policy intersect with carbon policy?
4. How do we estimate the total greenhouse gas emissions of a farm (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide) and calculate the number of trees needed to become 'carbon neutral'?

# New forests can make a difference to Australia's' greenhouse gas emissions

1. 9 million hectares of new forests in relatively low rainfall areas would store enough carbon to offset about 25% of Australia's 2005 emissions
2. The off-set capacity would be greatly increased if the forests were used for energy substitution.
3. Forests can also add other benefits such as biodiversity and regional economic development, but tradeoffs such as with water use need to be taken into account.