

OIA24-0613

3 December 2024

Craig Innes
fyi-request-28046-1c3c6683@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Craig Innes

Thank you for your email of 20 August 2024 requesting information relating to the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS). Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

On 13 September 2024 Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) extended the time limit to respond to your request to 7 October 2024.

You requested the following:

1. *Please provide a break down of all ETS applications that are currently under review together with the date of first application.*

Currently there are 246 ETS applications under review.

- 187 reviews were requested for decisions made in 2022.
- 32 reviews were requested for decisions made in 2023.
- 27 reviews were requested for decisions made in 2024.

The earliest review in processing was requested on 19 April 2022.

Our new online system, Tupu-ake, is being rolled out in stages. The functionality to complete review of decisions was successfully deployed on 19 August 2024. These applications are now being processed in order of request.

Now that Tupu-ake can support reviews of decisions, these will be the focus of the ETS Operations team between now and the end of the year. Because of this, we expect processing rates to increase dramatically.

2. *Please provide details of the number of ETS applications, together with the average time taken to process the applications over the last five years.*

The below table (Table One) contains the number of ETS land registration applications processed from 2019-2024 to date, and the median and average working days taken to process these.¹ The size, complexity, and quality of the application all impact processing times.

Table One

¹ This includes both new applications to register into the ETS, as well as applications to add more land for existing ETS participants.

Year	Median processing time (workdays) ²	Average processing time (workdays)	Number of applications processed	Area approved (hectares)
2019	88	109	64	3,481
2020	102	113	202	13,245
2021	95.5	109	308	20,117
2022	144	144	2,167	195,439
2023	198	174	337	18,376
2024	97	106	551	72,653

In 2022 and 2023, the median processing time for land registration applications increased due to a significant volume of applications being submitted, the significant scale and transition to a new operating model and the deployment of Tupu-ake.

Since 2021, there has been a 79% increase in the volume of applications submitted and a 261% increase in the number of hectares approved. It currently takes a median of 97 working days to process a land registration application. The reduction of time taken to process these applications is a result of investment in Tupu-ake, improved processes, and increased sector support and education. Te Uru Rākau - New Zealand Forest Service is committed to continuing to drive processing times down and work with the sector to identify further opportunities for efficiencies.

Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise these with the Ministry for Primary Industries at Official.InformationAct@mpi.govt.nz. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143 or at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely



Tess Keough
Acting Director Forestry Operations

² Te Uru Rākau - New Zealand Forest Service has also reported on the median working days as the median is less impacted by outliers such as incomplete applications.