

Modernisations of the Victorian Regional Forest Agreements

Consultation Paper. Dr William Jackson. May 2019.

47 Pages, 5 Chapters

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“Victoria should consider Leadership & Innovation as the pathway to modernise the Victorian RFAs “

- Note Vic Govt has set a target of \$20 billion in exports by 2030.
 - . RFAs in all 3 Objectives (conservation, sustainable management & stable forest industries) should innovate.
 - . Victoria’s primary industries are moving to ‘value add’ and RFAs should do the same.
 - . The benefits in all 3 objectives could be very real, including new income to resource Victoria’s public land/ Forests management.

- 1. Executive Summary.
 - Australia has 10 RFAs – 5 in Vic, - note East Gippsland & Gippsland!! (*do they cover the same area?*)
 - RFA Change cover 7 main areas.
 - Fires, forest industries, recreation, tourism (VG) etc
 - Values & CC impacts – note work by Prof Ary Hoffman (MU) for Queensland Govt.
 - Note ref. ‘community distrust’ – *an understatement – the management of pests/ weeds & especially blackberries, fire is disgraceful and below standards. See page 14 !!.*
 - Jackson Conclusions – 13 key points.
 - Vic has developed a VG reserve system (CAR) for sus. forest management.
 - RFAs have not provided long term stability for the timber industry with considerable reductions in area available to harvest. !!!!
 - Vic has a comprehensive regulatory framework & institutional arrangement. VG
 - Potential improvements to RFAs.
 - Theme 1. (Eco.Sus.) – *consider ‘blue sky’- innovation management trials . partner with Uni/ seek ind. partners AA.*
 - . Indigenous rights / *surely this the opportunity to trial their management systems & fire control!*
 - Theme 2. (forest industries) - *real opportunity to demonstrate – co existence (commercial & environment)*
 - . *tourism/ sus. Industry – international tourism (Asia) – a winner.*
 - Theme 3. (governance – management)
 - . good data – basis for adaptive & community processes. VG
 - . identify R issues ! *trial value adding systems AA.*
 - . improve monitoring & reporting. (esp. pests & weeds)

2. Introduction. main points covered in Exec. Summary & noting the Paper is a consultation paper seeking feedback.

3. What are Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs)

Note – 3 objectives

4. Have Vic. RFAs achieved their objectives?

- Used CAR reserve system
- National Forest Policy values include Bio Diversity, heritage, Aboriginal cultural. VG
- Total forest – 7.88 million hectares (3m in reserve)
- Note; Park managers report that the most common threats are from weeds & pests' invasion.
 - . Montreal Process criteria – 7 criteria cover Vic's reporting process
 - . industry has faced a substantial reduction in resource!
 - . VEAC noted that ash regrowth decline.
- CC impacts /declines – note CC forecast increase rain for East Gippsland! And CO2 storage in wood!
- Note Tourism & Recreational values! (\$1billion GVA)- 42m visits!
- Value of wood products \$1million pa (timber & pulp)
- R&D – over \$5 million/pa – VG
- Value adding - \$50 million new tech & equipment. VG
- Governance – RFAs reflect all appropriate Codes. VG
 - . DLWP role in management, Vic Forests – harvest/commercial
 - Consider trialling new commercial timber actions with Traditional Owners. AA.*
 - . note COP for Timber Production & Sus. Charter for Vic Forests. VG
- 6% of Vic Forest estate avail. *surely all criteria can be met with Inc. value adding timber harvesting. AA*
- Vic produces State of Forests Reports.
- VAGO audits 2013.

5. Potential Improvements.

- Covered in Exec. Summary

& VG ref. summary

A very timely Consultation Paper providing an opportunity for Governments to progress and adopt new opportunities for Victorian Regional Forest Agreements.