

I was under the impression that the West (or Otways) RFA had been cancelled. I read that the West RFA was effectively killed off on the 30th November 2002 when new Otway environmental policies were democratically endorsed through the 2002 Victorian State election, which resulted in the then Premier Bracks achieving an historic landslide win.

Then on 5th of October 2004 former Premier of Victoria, Steve Bracks acknowledged in State Parliament that the West RFA, had effectively been cancelled.

I don't believe that native forests should be used for the wood chip industry; I think plantation timber should be used for this purpose.

I think that clear felling in the Otways would be detrimental to the tourism industry but more importantly I believe it would have a seriously detrimental effect to our water supply.

Research conducted in the Melbourne domestic water supply catchments clearly demonstrated a relationship between clearfell logging of tall high rainfall wet forests and a reduction in water yield from domestic water supply catchments. The Otways has similar sort of high rainforest wet forests subjected to clearfell logging in domestic water supply catchments which supply at least 300,000 people with domestic water in South West Victoria. I think water supply is far more important than wood chips.

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