



## **Submission - modernisation of Victorian regional forest agreements**

Thank you for inviting public submissions regarding the modernisation of Victoria's regional forest agreements.

With a background and education in ecology and conservation, I firmly believe that the following policy changes are necessary for truly modernised RFAs that reflect the needs of Victorians and Victoria's natural heritage:

- 1. The Western RFA to be abolished and remaining public native forests in the west of the state to be fully protected from logging.**
- 2. All Victorian RFAs to be modernised so that all native forest logging practices in Victoria are compliant with state and federal threatened species, water and environmental protection laws.**
- 3. All Victorian RFAs to be modernised to prohibit the logging of public native forests for the production of timber products marked for export. The logging of our precious public native forests must, at the very least, reflect the needs of Australians only.**
- 4. All Victorian RFAs to be modernised to prohibit the logging of public native forests for the production of general, cheap and wasteful timber products such as paper, woodchips, firewood, floorboards and construction materials. The production of such products can and should immediately move to the plantation timber industry.**

## Comments

The Western RFA is obsolete and VicForests should have zero access to log what is left of Victoria's public forests in the west of the state. These forests are highly fragmented, have high conservation value and are very much under represented in the reserve system. They are in urgent need of better protection and better conservation management. There is virtually no economic justification to support a renewed RFA in the west and a return to logging will achieve nothing more than a systematic destruction of our God-given natural heritage in western Victoria.

Any kind of modern RFA in Victoria must ensure that state and federal threatened species, water and environmental protection laws apply to all native forest logging practices. This long-term denial that logging is not a threatening process to our flora and fauna is an appalling blight on the land management history of our state and undermines the integrity of our laws. If this special treatment of the native forest logging industry continues, it will lock in another 20 year curse on Victorian native plants and wildlife.

It should be prohibited to export woodchips or any other timber products sourced from Victoria's public native forests. Australian native forests are unique and priceless with high conservation and public value. Their use and management must, at the very least, reflect the needs of Australians only.

The logging of public native forests in Victoria for the production of cheap and wasteful products such as paper, woodchips, firewood, floorboards and building materials must cease immediately. There is no need to source such cheap general products from such a precious public resource and these products should wholly and immediately move to the plantation timber industry, for the common sense reason of ending any further unnecessary degradation of our publicly owned native forests. The sourcing of timber for the production of high-quality hardwood furniture should also transition to plantation timber wherever possible.

The following photographs are from the Glenelg Plain bioregion in the south-west of our state and is sadly very under-represented in our reserve system.





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