

June 30th 2019

Dear RFA Committee,

### **Introduction**

My experience of the RFAs has been brought to life by following, over many years, what has happened to the forests both in Victoria (especially the Strathbogie, Toolangi and the Rubicon State Forest and environs) and Tasmania. The over-logging of these sensitive and highly ecologically significant places is of major concern to me as an Australian citizen.

### **Case study - the Rubicon**

I recently heard the Rubicon State Forest described as 'the cookie jar' of forests.

This particular state forest has long been treated as an abundant resource of free timber, for the taking, and those in government and employment associated with its harvesting have, over the past 20 plus years, colluded in a dishonest free-for-all, with shonky practices and imprecise overseeing that has resulted in decades of land degradation, with little care for longterm web-of-life results.

This forest ecosystem is now on the brink of extinguishment. The RFA has failed this ecosystem and logging there HAS TO STOP NOW.

### **RFA failure**

The Victorian RFA system in the past 20+ years

- has been responsible for landscape-scale destruction of high value, uniquely biodiverse native forest across Victoria
- has FAILED to protect native forests at a Statewide level so much so that Victoria's natural landscape is at risk of permanent destruction
- is a TRAVESTY of a plan, in that it has allowed Victoria to ignore the Federal Environmental (EPBC) Act's intention to protect most at-risk species
- has FAILED to obey the intentions of a force majeure that deals with the impact of catastrophic wildfire on the reduction of available forest to fulfil contracts, and would fail this again for future catastrophic fires

- is SHORT-SIGHTED in its impact on and responsibility to care for mountain head-waters, the relationship between forest integrity and weather/rain patterns/climate change, the importance of carbon sequestration
- is an agreement that is in COMPLETE DENIAL of the value of native forests to the Australia's indigenous people and Aboriginal Australian heritage
- has FAILED the Victorian public now and into the future as it has been the main tool for destroying major landscapes across Victoria that comprise vibrant forest ecosystems, by either destroying them completely or turning them into lifeless single-species plantations, that no-one wants to visit, hunt, fish, camp.

### **What I want**

It is my vote that THE ONLY FUTURE FOR THE RFA IS FOR IT TO BE DECLARED **NULL & VOID**.

TO BE REPLACED BY A FOREST PROTECTION AGREEMENT THAT HOLDS AT ITS CORE THE TRUE PROTECTION & REPAIR OF THE REMAINING NATIVE FORESTS ACROSS VICTORIA, AT ALL COSTS, ACTIONED IMMEDIATELY.

Thank you for reading my submission.