

Please find below two submissions, one from the Geelong Environment Council Inc and a personal submission from

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With thanks



Submission on Modernisation of the Regional Forest Agreements.

The Geelong Environment Council wishes to make comment on and urgently request the West Victorian RFA not be continued for both the current review and proposed renewal.

The reasons are as follows-

- The Great Otway National Park and Otway Forest Park are not logged at all, not for chips or hardwood export or local use. Some limited firewood and specialty timber is made available. The no-logging decision is enshrined in an Act of Parliament. Logically, there is no need for an RFA to manage logging or export of timber extracted.
- It is most disturbing, and impossible to support a timber industry managed by VicForests which permits the forest industry to be exempt from national environmental protection laws.
- Furthermore, the allocation of nearly \$36 million for the public consultation on what have appeared to be most unsatisfactory and environmentally unsustainable forest management in Victoria.
- GEC objects strongly to further logging in over 50 forests and woodlands in western Victoria. Analysis shows 70% of logging areas proposed contains endangered, vulnerable or depleted native vegetation. There have been 20 threatened native animals and 14 threatened plants in or adjacent to in a third of proposed logging areas. (www.vnpa.org.au/western-forests-at-risk)
- GEC supports a VEAC investigation into the forests in the SW of Victoria
- Former Premier Steve Bracks had committed to cancelling the Western Victoria RFA but unfortunately it has still continued.

GEC strongly urges your present Government to

- cancel the Western RFA in its total areas,
- confirm that the cessation of logging in the Otway region is sacrosanct
- Ensure that the western forests in Victoria will be managed sustainably with protection under national environmental protection laws and due diligence for adequate environmental protection for its range of flora and fauna values.

The establishment of an Office of the Conservation Regulator is supported, to oversee timber extraction in Victoria as has been recommended in the Independent review of *Timber Harvesting Regulation*.

Yours Sincerely

[Redacted Signature]

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Submission on the modernisation of the Regional Forest Agreements.

- Re the West Victorian RFA – As no logging is allowed except for limited specialty timber and firewood, one must wonder why we need a West Victorian RFA to manage logging or timber extraction. It should be clearly stated that there will be no logging allowed in these forests in the future.
- Logging plans for targeted logging in the West should be cancelled. The plans include logging areas where there are threatened native animals and plants.
- People now expect clear, transparent and sustainable management of our forests. Logging in areas with threatened or endangered species is just not acceptable at all.
- The forest industry should NOT be exempt from national environmental protection laws.
- Since the RFAs first came into effect, species decline has continued including Mountain Ash forests which are now critically endangered. Clearly the RFA's did not work to preserve forests and forest species.
- All the RFA's should be cancelled.
- We need a more modern, effective approach to managing our forests, which takes into account climate change, the role of forests in providing water, eco tourism, carbon etc.
- We need complete protection of threatened species and their habitats.

Yours sincerely

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