

## **Comments on the Independent Consultation Paper on the Victorian Regional Forest Agreements**

RFAs are outdated and restrict establishment of further much-needed forest reserves. Logging in our native forests should be banned and the RFAs scrapped. The RFAs at present are inflexible and do not allow for the impacts of fire, climate change and updated ecological criteria.

Logging of native forests is unnecessary, inefficient, environmentally destructive and a dire threat to native wildlife. The logging industry, which is any event in decline, should be restricted to plantation timber on marginal land, and the native forests should be left alone, with increased areas set aside as reserves such as national parks.

Importantly, the logging industry should not be exempt from national environmental laws.

Native forest logging is deeply unpopular in the community, for good reason – it is incompatible with other forest values and uses, and the few jobs it creates in no way compensates for the negative effects it has on the forests.

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