



Healesville Environment Watch Inc.

[Redacted]

HEALESVILLE ♦ CHUM CREEK ♦ YARRA GLEN ♦ BADGER CREEK ♦ DIXONS CREEK ♦ STEELS CREEK ♦ TARRAWARRA ♦ TOOLANGI

June 30 2019

Engage Victoria: RFAs

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning,

Re: Modernisation of the Regional Forests Agreement, HEWI submission

To whom it may concern,

HEWI members have contributed many submissions re previous RFA reviews and attended the recent regional meetings. We are also members of the Victorian National Parks Association and fully support all their recommendations to this 'modernisation' process.

RFAs are out of date and not fit for purpose. They have failed environmentally, socially and economically, and must not be extended, or rolled over.

It's time for a fundamental reset - logging exceeds sustained yields and wildlife are being increasingly added to our endangered species list, some critically endangered.

This process provides the opportunity to put in place improved and modern arrangements for management of Victoria's precious publicly owned state forests — ones based on current science, and on community views about how our state forests should be valued, used and managed.

Future forest management needs to deliver benefits for all Australians, not just the over-subsidised native forest logging sector. Other forest-dependent industries—such as conservation recreation, tourism, agriculture, water and carbon—must be accounted for in all forest management arrangements.

Former RFAs should be replaced with arrangements that ensure natural and cultural values are protected, and which support the completion of the industry's shift into less-controversial plantation and recycled fibre—rather than entrenching unsustainable native forest logging.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]